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ELIMINATION OF APARTHEID AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNITED, DEMOCRATIC AND NON-RACIAL SOUTH AFRICA

Coordinated approach by the United Nations system on questions relating to South Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/116 A of 18 December 1992, entitled "International efforts towards the total eradication of apartheid and support for the establishment of a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa", in which it welcomed the initiative of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to place before the Security Council the question of violence in South Africa, as well as Security Council resolutions 765 (1992) of 16 July 1992 and 772 (1992) of 17 August 1992, and the decision to deploy United Nations observers to further the purposes of the National Peace Accord signed on 14 September 1991 in South Africa. The Assembly also welcomed the deployment of observers from OAU, the Commonwealth and the European Community in South Africa in response to Security Council resolution 772 (1992).

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly, inter alia, took note of the Secretary-General's report of 7 August 1992 1/ on the mission of his Special Representative to South Africa and took note with approval of the recommendations contained therein; also took note of the third progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa (A/47/574), as well as of his report on the coordinated approach by the United Nations system on questions relating to South Africa (A/47/559); and welcomed the safeguards agreement of 16 September 1991 between the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Government of South Africa and the report of the Director General of the Agency of 4 September 1992 on the completeness of the inventory of South Africa's nuclear installations and material, under the terms of the safeguards agreement (A/47/533, annex II).

3. The General Assembly also commended measures taken to address areas of concern in South Africa and particularly to assist in strengthening the structures set up under the National Peace Accord and urged the Secretary-General to continue to address those areas of concern which fell in the purview

of the United Nations, and requested him, in consultation with the parties concerned, to undertake preliminary examination of the assistance that the United Nations might provide in the electoral process leading to a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa.

4. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to continue to ensure the coordination of activities of the United Nations and its agencies with regard to South Africa and, as appropriate, inside that country, and to report to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session on measures taken to facilitate the peaceful elimination of apartheid and the transition of South Africa to a non-racial and democratic society as envisaged in the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request. In response to the resolution, the Secretary-General will also submit a fourth progress report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the Declaration.

5. At the time of preparation of the present report, decision 1991/7, adopted by the Administrative Committee on Coordination in April 1991 (A/46/648, annex II) and which established guidelines for a coordinated approach by the United Nations system to questions relating to South Africa, remained in force. For a description of present or planned activities related to South Africa carried out by relevant bodies of the United Nations system, see the annex to the present report. The information provided in the annex is based on submissions by the organizations, agencies and/or offices concerned.

6. In addition to those United Nations departments, offices, programmes, specialized agencies and other bodies which are listed in the annex, replies were also received from the Office of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva; the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis; the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

Notes

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ANNEX

Activities of the United Nations system relating to South Africa

I. UNITED NATIONS

A. United Nations departments and offices

1. Centre Against Apartheid

1. The activities undertaken by the Centre Against Apartheid continue to be guided by the overall political assessment of the situation in South Africa of the Special Committee against Apartheid and by its programme of work approved by the General Assembly and implemented on an annual basis. During the period under review, the Centre serviced the Special Committee and assisted it in fulfilling its mandate. In that context, the Centre continued to carry out research on political, economic and social aspects of developments in South Africa. It maintained widespread contact with intergovernmental, international and national non-governmental and community-based organizations, and with individuals inside and outside South Africa involved in the current negotiation and transition process in the country. In addition, the Centre serviced the Advisory Committee of the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, the Commission against Apartheid in Sports, the Committee of Trustees of the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa and the Intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa.

2. In 1992 and 1993, the Centre was involved in the organization of a number of well-attended meetings and consultations in accordance with the programme of work of the Special Committee. In the context of coordination, the most important activity was the Symposium on Political Tolerance in South Africa: Role of Opinion-Makers and the Media. The Symposium was held at Cape Town, South Africa, from 30 July to 1 August 1993.

3. Given the widespread agreement that a broad-based understanding of the democratic process is essential to foster the climate of political tolerance needed for free and fair elections in the months ahead, the main objective of the Symposium was to provide an opportunity for a broad spectrum of South African opinion-makers, experts and media personalities to discuss and examine the role they could play in reaching out to the majority of South Africans with a message of basic democratic values that could easily be understood and adopted as part of their daily lives, in support of the multiparty negotiating process and the eventual transition of South Africa to a new, non-racial and democratic society. The United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa was represented at the Symposium. Further references to the Symposium are made in the annual report of the Special Committee against Apartheid a/ and in the report of the Symposium. b/

4. The Centre also organized a Joint North American/European NGO Consultation at Geneva, on 30 and 31 August 1993, to discuss new approaches for cooperation towards meeting social and economic development needs of townships and rural communities in South Africa; to support institutional capacity-building for

community-based non-governmental organizations in the country; to strengthen people-to-people relations between international constituency-based organizations and their South African counterparts; to increase the cooperation between North American/European and South African non-governmental organizations; and to search for ways to promote investments, loans and grants in order to meet the developmental needs of rural and township communities. Representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the United Nations Office at Geneva, the Centre for Human Rights, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Volunteers participated in the consultations. c/

5. Currently, preparations are under way to organize a seminar on economic growth and sustainable social development in South Africa. The Centre also plans to hold a training workshop on the procedures of the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa. It is already involved in and will continue to contribute towards the holding of the planned International Donors Conference on Human Resource Development for a Post-apartheid South Africa to be held early in 1994 in that country.

2. Centre for Human Rights

6. In 1992, in response to numerous requests for advanced studies in human rights from individuals within South Africa, the Centre for Human Rights, in consultation with the Centre Against Apartheid and the World Council of Churches, invited eight young professionals engaged in human rights-related activities to participate in the annual fellowship programme of the Centre for Human Rights. In 1993, the Centre for Human Rights invited again 11 South Africans representing a wide cross-section of society to participate in the fellowship programme and to attend the annual study session of the International Institute of Human Rights at Strasbourg.

7. As South Africa progresses towards elections and a democratic transition, the Centre for Human Rights expects to receive numerous requests for electoral assistance, which will be considered in an appropriate manner. Taking into account its experience in such assistance activities, the Centre has noted the desirability of preparing an overall country programme for human rights assistance that will provide a comprehensive response to the particular situation and needs of South Africa.

3. Department of Humanitarian Affairs

8. Under General Assembly resolution 46/79 A of 13 December 1991, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs provided a three-day technical cooperation mission to advise the South African Civil Protection Association at Johannesburg on its disaster-mitigation policy and programmes in a new and democratic South Africa. The advice given was of a very general nature. The Johannesburg branch of the Association is seeking to broaden its mandate beyond the confines of emergency management. For example, the subject of preventing the occurrence of urban disasters caused by rapid and uncontrolled urbanization is of growing concern to it and it has decided to adopt the disaster management methodology recommended by the Disaster Management Training Programme of the Department of

Humanitarian Affairs. Further direct assistance to the Association will depend on political progress in South Africa.

4. Department of Public Information

9. The Department of Public Information provided television, radio and photographic coverage of meetings and events organized or sponsored by the Special Committee against Apartheid. It issued two background articles in UN Focus on "Recent developments on the issue of apartheid in South Africa", in August 1992 and January 1993, which highlighted major developments in the process towards a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa, as well as 21 press releases in French and 76 in English, distributed to 67 United Nations information centres. Articles were also published in four editions of the UN Chronicle. Information material on apartheid, racism and racial discrimination was regularly distributed.

10. The Anti-Apartheid Radio Section of the Department produced 189 radio programmes in 1992 and 89 in the first four months of 1993 on the issue of apartheid, which were broadcast in Arabic, Bangla, Chinese, Dutch, English, French, Kiswahili and Spanish; and distributed to local radio stations through United Nations information centres at Bucharest, Bujumbura, Cairo, Harare, Lusaka, Prague and Moscow. Regular weekly broadcast slots were secured for "One South Africa" and "Southern Africa Review" by the Harare Information Centre on Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, and by the Cairo Centre on Cairo Radio Overseas Service.

11. The World Chronicle produced two television programmes on apartheid covering interviews on 9 March 1992 with Prof. Ibrahim A. Gambari, Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, and on 14 September 1992, with Mr. Martin Huslid, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa. An additional "UN in Action" television programme on South Africa was broadcast in February 1992. United Nations films and videos on apartheid continued to be screened at information centres and/or loaned out to local television stations, non-governmental organizations, schools and others.

12. Information centres and services conducted special activities to promote the elimination of apartheid with the display of the travelling anti-apartheid exhibit; support for round tables, conferences and seminars, as well as the organization of film festivals or film screenings on apartheid or human rights issues. As South Africa's communities, political parties and leaders are engaged in negotiations for a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa, the Department of Public Information will continue to direct its efforts at reporting on those developments, in particular, through its radio programmes and a series of UN Focus articles. In addition, the Department intends to organize, in cooperation with the University of the Western Cape, a round table on the United Nations image in South Africa.

5. Division for the Advancement of Women

13. The Division prepared the report of the Secretary-General on women and children living under apartheid for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which took place at Vienna from 17 to 26 March 1993. The report was presented under the item entitled "Monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women". The mandate of the report was contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/15 of 30 July 1992, entitled "Women and children under apartheid". At its session in March 1993, the Commission adopted by consensus a resolution entitled "Women and children under apartheid", and it will remain seized of the position of women and children under apartheid. The Commission's resolution also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to it at its thirty-eighth session.

B. United Nations programmes and other bodies

1. United Nations Children's Fund

14. In December 1992, UNICEF attached a small team of international professionals to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Office in South Africa. The main area of cooperation between UNHCR and UNICEF is in finding ways and means to extend urgent humanitarian relief to children and women in especially difficult circumstances, with particular emphasis on the resettlement of returnees, victims of violence and other internally displaced groups. UNICEF has continued to work with non-racial, democratic non-governmental organizations, under the aegis of the National Children's Rights Committee, in trying to understand better the priority needs of children and women with a view to facilitating a programme planning and advocacy process to ensure that children are, indeed, placed on the priority agenda for a non-racial, democratic and non-sexist South Africa. This cooperation is based on the country programme for South Africa approved by the Executive Board of UNICEF in June 1992.

15. In the field of planning, advocacy and social mobilization, UNICEF assisted in a study on the situation of children and women in South Africa. Two reports have been published as a result: the "State of South Africa's Children - An Agenda for Action" is a brief, easily accessible, human interest report intended for busy policy makers and planners who wish to do something about improving the survival, protection and development of children; a more detailed study report is "Children and Women in South Africa: A Situation Analysis".

16. The main findings of the latter study underline the significant racial as well as rural/urban disparities. For instance, the number of Black children dying before their fifth birthday (66 per 1,000 live births) is 11 times that of White children (6 per 1,000). Transkei and KwaZulu children seem to be in the worst position, with infant mortality rates ranging between 80 and 120 per 1,000 live births. Since the registration of births and deaths for Blacks is not yet mandatory, available data are based mainly on information available from health facilities. However, the most serious threats to child survival, protection and development in South Africa are all preventable. They include diarrhoeal diseases, acute respiratory infections, undernutrition, different forms of child

abuse and poor conditions of women. A commitment is needed to the principle of a First Call for Children in a future South Africa.

17. To this effect, wide dissemination of the results of the study is a key component in the process of seeking consensus on the priority needs of children and women, as well as of reaching agreement on what can be done about it, hence, the launching of a national advocacy and social mobilization drive during the week of 14 to 18 June 1993 at Johannesburg; organization of a food security conference, hosted by the National Consultative Forum on Drought; the celebration of the Day of the African Child; and a two-day situation analysis dissemination conference.

18. A notable outcome of the national conference was the adoption of the Thembisa Declaration, which, among other things, called for the urgent formation of a national children's forum on a par with the multiparty, sectoral negotiating forums that have now become an acceptable norm during the present still delicate period of transition to non-racial democracy. The national children's forum would, therefore, provide a legitimate, broad-based forum that could take on the challenge of formulating a national programme of action for children that would, in turn, constitute an integral part of a national development programme for a future South Africa. The forum would also facilitate the establishment of a list of feasible programme activities, such as 90 per cent full immunization of all children between birth and 12 months within the first 100 days of an interim government of national unity, salt iodization, fortification of certain basic foods with iron and vitamins A and D, and other measures to achieve a significant improvement in child health and nutrition. A national consultative conference that would establish the national children's forum and agree on mechanisms for drawing-up a national programme of action for children was planned for August 1993.

19. The resettlement of South African returnees has posed special challenges. Most of the 13,500 returnees are scattered throughout shanty townships where the majority of the receiving communities are themselves destitute, suffering from homelessness, joblessness and hopelessness. Economic recession aggravates the situation. As yet, there are few government efforts to facilitate external donor support to this group. Violence has tended to increase community instability and destitution, while the progress in political negotiations was much slower than anticipated. The programme delivery capacity of non-governmental organizations is modest. It is difficult to undertake meaningful programme planning and implementation before sufficient progress is made towards a real transition to non-racial democracy.

20. UNICEF has been assisting with an assessment of the impact of violence on children and women, especially in Natal and the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vaal regions, aimed at soliciting views on what can be done to alleviate their plight. A modest amount of humanitarian assistance has been given to the victims of the violence in Natal through the Red Cross. Financial support also has been provided to the Alexander Township Crisis Committee to repair a local church building destroyed during the violence, to provide shelter for displaced families and day care facilities for pre-schoolchildren. Consultations between UNHCR, UNICEF and a number of non-governmental organizations in Alexander Township are being held in order to identify other programmes that would help alleviate the plight of returnees and of other internally displaced groups.

2. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

21. UNCTAD activities are not as yet being undertaken within South Africa itself but concentrate on collaboration with neighbouring countries, which continues to increase in the search for subregional economic structures that could accommodate a post-apartheid South Africa. Efforts are being made to bring about greater harmony in the integration processes of the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) in order to facilitate the integration of South Africa in the subregional economic cooperation arrangements. UNCTAD is ready to assist a post-apartheid South Africa in the elaboration and implementation of a socio-economic transition programme designed to address such issues as poverty alleviation and reduction; privatization; the development of local entrepreneurship; commodity policies; human resource development; and transportation.

3. United Nations Development Programme

22. UNDP, within its programme of support to national liberation movements in South Africa, has continued to provide assistance to African National Congress (ANC) and Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) students to complete their courses that were in progress at the time the report of the Secretary-General of 6 November 1992 (A/47/559) was published. A mission from the Management Development Programme Division visited South Africa and assessed the status of the public sector. A project document for technical assistance in public service reform is under preparation, which will be implemented after clearance by the interested parties and conditions have normalized for UNDP to operate inside South Africa.

23. UNDP conducted an assessment of non-governmental organizations in South Africa, many of whom are involved in development work serving various segments of the South African population. The purpose of the study, among other things, was to review the profile of these organizations as a basis for providing assistance in accordance with the UNDP mandate of human development and capacity-building for self-reliant and self-sustaining development.

24. UNDP and the World Bank sponsored a workshop in Swaziland on Experience with Agricultural Policy: Lessons for South Africa. The workshop was held in response to requests from groups in South Africa who are in the process of developing policies and strategies on land reform in a post-apartheid South Africa. UNDP is providing secretarial support to the core group responsible for organizing a donors' conference to mobilize resources for South Africa.

25. The UNDP Senior Officer based at Lusaka has visited South Africa on several occasions and held sessions with the ANC, PAC, the Government and other interested parties and donors based in South Africa on how and in what areas UNDP should assist the new South Africa. Based on his reports and other available information, UNDP has begun to formulate a policy and strategy of technical assistance to South Africa. UNDP plans to have a physical presence in South Africa as soon as the prevailing restrictions have been removed so that programmes and projects can be implemented inside the country.

4. United Nations Environment Programme

26. During the reporting period UNEP cooperated with the ANC and the highlights included the provision of fellowships to ANC representatives attending meetings on the environment; inputs to the "Environmental Policy for a New South Africa", a position paper of the ANC; provision of environmental information and related materials, and so on. Cooperative links were maintained with the Environment Desk of the ANC and with the School of Rural Community Development. UNEP encouraged the participation of both the ANC and PAC in the activities of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment. It cooperated with a number of other institutions in South Africa dealing with natural resources and environmental issues. These included the Foundation for Research Development, the Institute of Natural Resources and the University of Natal Regional Development Advisory Committee.

27. At the subregional level, UNEP continued its close cooperation with SADC, within the framework of which it made inputs to a number of sustainable development initiatives aimed at preparing the ground for an environmentally safe southern Africa. This included UNEP assistance to States neighbouring South Africa and to the southern African subregion, regarding programmes for the preservation and conservation of transboundary natural resources (biological resources) and the management of international environmental issues. UNEP assisted SADC in the formulation and implementation of intergovernmental agreements on the environment. Through UNEP support, SADC member countries continue to participate in conventions on the regional seas, the climate, biodiversity, the ozone layer and other matters.

5. United Nations Population Fund

28. In line with the intent and purpose of the General Assembly's consensus resolution on South Africa, UNFPA has not developed operational activities in the country yet. Of particular importance to population activities will be the position and declarations of the future political administration in South Africa. In preparation for a programme of assistance, the Fund is keeping abreast of developments in the social sector, including population. UNFPA has held discussions on future cooperation with United Nations specialized agencies and international non-governmental organizations that are already organizing population and development activities in the southern African subregion as a whole. UNFPA also participated as an observer in awareness-creation activities focusing on population and health issues in South Africa that have been organized by other United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations.

6. United Nations University

29. In November 1992, the Director of the UNU Institute for New Technologies (INTECH) at Maastricht, the Netherlands, visited South Africa to participate in a seminar on industrial policy in post-apartheid South Africa, which was financed as part of a larger project by the International Development Research Centre of Canada. The project was also sponsored by the Congress of South

African Trade Unions (COSATU). The policy research, which is the basis of the project, is under the leadership of academics at the University of Cape Town and the University of the Western Cape. The week-long seminar included a number of detailed sector studies. The Director of INTECH was able to contribute, inter alia, to the discussion of the technology policy aspects of the studies. The Institute held a seminar on the project in July 1993, which was attended by South African researchers, resource persons from Europe and representatives of non-governmental organizations. It was one of a series of seminars on industrialization needs in South Africa planned by the South African project organizers for the second half of 1993.

30. UNU/INTECH will analyse the technology policy implications of industrialization in the new South Africa in its programme for 1994-1995. The Director of INTECH will take direct responsibility for the research aspects. The work will be mainly carried out by South African researchers, so as to contribute to capacity-building. During the above-mentioned visit to South Africa, the Director of UNU/INTECH visited three South African universities, which have played significant roles in the struggle against apartheid: the University of Cape Town, the University of the Western Cape and the University of Fort Hare. In each case, he had discussions about the role UNU as a whole might play with regard to university development in the post-apartheid period and he will make proposals on the matter to the Rector of UNU.

7. World Food Programme

31. WFP has used transit facilities through South Africa for delivery of food and non-food aid to land-locked countries such as Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe when appropriate and cost-effective. The worst drought for decades afflicted countries in the southern Africa region during the period under review, necessitating a review of World Food Programme (WFP) food delivery arrangements, particularly as the traditional food suppliers to the region (South Africa and Zimbabwe) were themselves importing food.

32. Through the SADC/WFP Legislative Advisory Centre, set up at Harare in May 1992, and its sub-office at Johannesburg, the Logistics Advisory Unit officially established in September 1992, WFP coordinated and monitored food flows to the region amounting to some 6.6 million tons. Of that amount, some 1 million tons were WFP-supplied commodities.

33. Through the United Nations/SADC drought appeal of 26 May 1992, WFP requested donor support for non-food and logistics purposes. Thanks to the excellent donor response, WFP was also in a position to finance the positioning of regional railway staff at Johannesburg. As a result of its positive experience with WFP and regional bodies in the drought period, the South Africa Railways plans to continue, on a commercial basis, its role in coordinating the movement of all cargo in the southern corridor.

34. As mentioned in the joint FAO/WFP alert of 28 April 1993, the drought in the region is basically over except in localized areas in certain countries. As no major food imports are expected to be made from outside the region, it is likely that by 30 June 1993 a WFP logistics presence will no longer be required

in South Africa. WFP intends, however, to initiate planning for possible future involvement in South Africa following the elections set for April 1994.

8. Economic Commission for Africa

35. ECA has focused special attention on the development of strategies for meeting the daunting challenges in South Africa: glaring poverty and socio-economic imbalances and backlogs; widespread unemployment; neglect of human development; a high illiteracy rate; closure of opportunities for acquiring human and physical capital for most South Africans; highly unequal distribution of wealth and income; inadequate health care; poor housing conditions; a high rate of violence; and a vast web of market distortions and rigidities.

36. To enable ECA to appreciate fully the magnitude of the development challenges in South Africa and the socio-economic priorities and to develop relevant strategies for a profound restructuring of the economic and social sectors and for future policy re-direction, if sustained growth and genuine development are to come about and benefit the whole population, an exploratory mission was undertaken to South Africa in October 1992. Among other things, the members of the mission (a) identified institutions whose roles were critical to the development of South Africa and to the ongoing political transition process; (b) consulted with the various groups and development agencies on areas in which collaboration with ECA would be most beneficial; and (c) established ECA contact with non-governmental organizations and democratic and liberation movements. In order to focus close attention on the transition in progress in southern Africa, ECA established a special Southern Africa Desk and Task Force. While refraining from establishing links at the official level, the Desk has drawn up a comprehensive socio-economic and political transition programme.

37. ECA has established special contact with the African Institute of South Africa, the country's principal research and information centre on Africa, collecting, processing, interpreting and distributing information. In February 1993, the future cooperation between ECA and the Institute in the field of economic research and a series of proposed workshops to be organized jointly by ECA and the Institute were discussed. ECA was briefed on South Africa's socio-economic and political dynamics.

38. The first of the series of workshops was scheduled to take place at Johannesburg in August 1993. The workshop, with the topic "Towards a Development Strategy for South Africa", was attended by prominent internationalists in the development field, as well as a key group of South Africans. It debated the theoretical underpinnings of development, the African and Latin American development experience, the development crisis in South Africa and options for development in a post-apartheid South Africa.

39. Contact has also been established with the Independent Development Trust, with which ECA held regular consultations and exchanged ideas and experiences on rural development, which is crucial to the overall economic health of South Africa. The Coordinator of the Rural and Community Development Section of the Trust has visited ECA to exchange views on (a) its provision of technical advisory services in South Africa in the area of rural development (particularly

as regards design elements, monitoring and evaluation, alternative credit and extension systems, and so on); and (b) the attachment of South African students to ECA to acquire knowledge and experience on rural development in Africa. The Trust is developing with ECA a comprehensive rural development strategy aimed at reducing rural-urban dualism while simultaneously multiplying economic and entrepreneurial opportunities.

40. ECA has established useful links with the Development Bank of Southern Africa. The Bank is exchanging information with ECA on African development experiences and is particularly interested in economic reports and such policy documents as the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development; the Lagos Plan of Action; and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. The cooperation includes the implementation of projects on human resource and business/entrepreneurial development, and on rural and agricultural development.

41. The Science and Technology Unit of the Natural Resources Division of ECA has had a series of exploratory talks with the South African Foundation for Research and Development. A meeting of the subregional Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Science and Technology Development was held from 5 to 9 July 1993. The objective of the meeting was to develop a subregional policy on science and technology for development. Both institutions are cooperating in the following projects: (a) developing a subregional science and technology policy; and (b) production of school science equipment within the subregion.

42. Through its Multinational Programming and Operational Centre (MULPOC) at Lusaka, ECA has been critically involved in various activities touching on the economic and social situation in South Africa, and falling principally within the work programme of the Southern African Labour Commission. The MULPOC, acting as the secretariat of the Commission, has carried out important studies on the economic and social aspects of migratory labour in southern Africa. The Centre has been instrumental in involving the National Council of Trade Unions (NACTU) of South Africa and COSATU in the activities of the Commission. The Population Division of ECA prepared a project document concentrating on the substantive servicing of a workshop on foreign labour migration to South Africa from the countries of the Lusaka-based MULPOC, in particular Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. The workshop would map out strategies to deal with the changing dynamics of foreign migrant labour and the underlying apartheid economic system.

43. In its effort to contribute towards the advancement of data communications information technology in Africa and to improve the flow of information for socio-economic development in Africa and the timely utilization of existing information systems, the Pan African Development Information System (PADIS) of ECA is working closely with the South African academic and research network, UNINET-ZA, and other networks, such as Worknet, which link media and non-governmental organizations in South Africa. PADIS also participates in the regional electronic conference for networking experts in Africa, which is coordinated by the South African academic and research network.

44. The planned activities of ECA in South Africa during the biennium 1994/1995 include training seminars and workshops, studies, advisory services and other activities. As South Africa moves towards a post-apartheid era, ECA is ready to

provide technical assistance for the implementation of new development strategies in South Africa that would tackle the glaring socio-economic imbalances created by apartheid and simultaneously promote growth and redistribution.

9. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

45. UNCHS (Habitat) addressed the Rotary International President's Conference organized by the South African Rotary at Johannesburg from 19 to 21 February 1993 on the problems and opportunities for community service in the sphere of housing. The role of non-governmental organizations such as Rotary International in the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 formed the basis of the UNCHS (Habitat) statement.

46. UNCHS (Habitat) provided inputs to the 21st World Housing Congress organized by the Institute for Housing of Southern Africa and the South African National Association of Home Builders, together with the International Association for Housing and Science. The Congress, held at Cape Town from 10 to 14 May 1993, covered many aspects of human settlements, with a focus on housing. UNCHS (Habitat) presented key addresses drawing on the linkage between the various issues covered by the Congress and the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, the human settlement components of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) to be held in 1996.

47. Following on the results of the Seminar on South Africa's Socio-Economic Problems: Future Role of the United Nations System in Helping Address Them (22-24 May 1992), UNCHS will invite some of the Seminar's South African participants to join in more detailed discussions on cooperation between the Centre and South Africa in the field of human settlements. Their visit to UNCHS is scheduled to take place during the second half of 1993.

10. United Nations International Drug Control Programme

48. As one of its overall responsibilities, the International Narcotics Control Board of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme promotes the compliance of Governments with the provisions of international drug control treaties and monitors the functioning of the international control system in the interest of the international community. At its fifty-fourth session, in May 1993, the Board decided to send a mission to South Africa, primarily to discuss the compliance of the South African drug control system with the provisions of the 1971 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The Board has noted with concern the growing illicit traffic of methaqualone from the Indian subcontinent to countries in eastern and southern Africa and wishes to discuss the matter with the South African authorities. The mission is scheduled to take place in October 1993.

II. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

A. International Labour Organization

49. A special report is submitted annually by the Director-General to the International Labour Conference containing information on developments concerning apartheid in relation to labour matters and concerning action taken by ILO and its partners in furtherance of the Declaration and the Programme of Action, as well as that taken within the United Nations system and by the International Labour Office. Information is also provided to the Committee on Discrimination of the Governing Body of ILO relating, inter alia, to operational activities undertaken by the Office and to the monitoring, by a group of three independent experts appointed by the Governing Body in 1989, of measures concerning sanctions and other action taken.

50. In previous years, ILO conducted its operational activities in the form of projects based in the countries of southern Africa, outside South Africa, and the participants were South African exiles. Those projects have been wound down in the wake of the relocation to South Africa of the liberation movements and individual exiles concerned. At its seventy-ninth session, in June 1992, the International Labour Conference endorsed conclusion No. 25 of the Tripartite Conference on Southern Africa, held at Harare in May 1992, which recommended the preparation of projects of technical assistance for employers' and workers' organizations to be implemented in South Africa after the creation of an interim government. In order to give expression to these conclusions, ILO, after appropriate consultations with workers and employers, has a number of proposals drawn up for workshops scheduled to take place in 1993.

51. To determine priorities, in February 1993 an ILO planning mission went to South Africa to assess the needs for technical cooperation and assistance in the transition to democracy. The members of the mission met with a wide range of trade unionists and employer organizations as well as liberation movements. Priorities identified include the following: employment creation, human resource development, economic policy formulation, worker education, and labour law reform.

52. As a follow-up to the planning mission, the secretaries of COSATU and NACTU visited Geneva in late February and had discussions with the Director-General on the modalities of ILO technical cooperation. ILO, at the request of COSATU, assisted in organizing a workshop on labour relations in the public sector at Johannesburg on 20 and 21 April 1993 and participated in a conference on labour law in the rural sector held at Stellenbosch on 13 and 14 May 1993. ILO also participated in a conference of workers' rights held at Cape Town on 18 and 19 June 1993.

53. Both the reporting and the operational activities of ILO have been based on regular contacts and consultations with representatives of the national liberation movements and trade unions. In June 1993, representatives of COSATU, NACTU and the Federation of South African Labour Unions, as well as representatives of the ANC and PAC, and representatives of employers' organizations such as the South African Coordinating Committee on Labour Affairs, the National African Federated Chambers of Commerce and the Foundation for African Business and Consumer Services visited Geneva.

B. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

54. The Director-General established a special programme for South Africa on 1 May 1993. The new structure is based at headquarters in Paris and is headed by a Director, who coordinates the activities of UNESCO's various sectors and prepares a comprehensive strategy for future action by UNESCO in all its fields of competence in support of a new democratic, united, non-racial South Africa. The Director-General will send a programme specialist to join the United Nations team in South Africa.

55. UNESCO, through its regular programme, granted fellowships for university-level studies, in particular in the fields of education and educational planning, natural and physical sciences, and social sciences. It has provided technical advice and material assistance to education officers and education departments of the ANC and PAC, as well as assistance, jointly with UNDP, for the setting up of ANC and PAC education centres in the United Republic of Tanzania. Workshops were sponsored to upgrade teacher training. The scope of the programme of assistance has been expanded through cooperation with UNDP and funds-in-trust partners. UNESCO continues to serve as the United Nations executing agency for UNDP-financed projects aimed at providing education for primary and secondary school students. Some international fellowships were provided for university students and professionals. Projects are being prepared for the fifth UNDP country programme cycle. Twenty South African trainees completed a three-year course for secondary schoolteachers at the Mkwaja Teacher Training Institute in the United Republic of Tanzania in June 1993.

56. UNESCO considers it important to examine the best means to implement a comprehensive programme of international assistance that will extend the efforts being made by the Commonwealth Secretariat to implement the recommendations of its report "Beyond Apartheid: Human Resources for a New South Africa", to which UNESCO contributed.

57. UNESCO recently initiated assistance to university training and research by involving the University of the Western Cape in a twinning agreement, under UNESCO's UNITWIN programme, whereby the University of the Western Cape will be connected up to a network of other universities both in southern Africa - the University of Eduardo Mondlane, the University of Namibia and the University of Zimbabwe - and to Utrecht University in the Netherlands. Activities will centre on networking and exchanging experience and expertise, particularly for post-graduate training and research between these universities and other universities in the countries and regions concerned, around the following clusters of disciplines: health (medical-biotechnological) fields; science and mathematics; and man and environment issues.

C. International Civil Aviation Organization

58. During the reporting period, the Secretary-General of ICAO presented three progress reports to the Council of the Organization on the implementation of ICAO Assembly resolution A27-5 entitled, "Condemnation of the policies of apartheid and racial discrimination of South Africa and measures to be taken in

response to the resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in that regard". The main objectives of resolution A27-5 are reflected in the resolving clauses, namely, to reiterate the United Nations call to all nations and peoples of the world to exert pressure on South Africa to abandon its apartheid policies and to urge all contracting States of ICAO to ban air links and suspend or terminate bilateral air transport agreements with South Africa.

59. When considering the latest progress report in June 1993, the ICAO Council noted that in view of the complexity of the ongoing process of political change in South Africa, which, although it has often been stalled, has resulted in positive developments, it was essential for all organizations of the United Nations system to follow a concerted approach on questions relating to South Africa. That concerted approach should be forward-looking and ensure that the activities of the organizations during the delicate period of transition were fully consistent with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and responded in a timely manner to the changes under way in South Africa.

60. The latest progress report provided information on the resumption of multilateral negotiations in South Africa and referred to the statement by the United Nations Secretary-General that the United Nations was committed to facilitating the negotiating process in South Africa and would spare no efforts in bringing about peace and reconciliation. The Council of ICAO was informed of the outcome of the official mission to South Africa of members of the Special Committee against Apartheid and noted in particular the conclusion presented by the Chairman of the Committee in his mission report to the General Assembly that there was an urgent need for the organizations of the United Nations system to start planning for programmes of social and economic assistance, which were crucial for the ability of a new democratically elected government to ensure a smooth and stable transition. In accordance with resolving clause 3 of resolution A27-5, which requests the ICAO Council to keep in constant review, at each of its sessions, the developments in South Africa, the Secretary-General was requested to present a further progress report on the subject during the forthcoming 140th session of the Council, in November 1993.

D. World Health Organization

61. Over recent months, WHO has increased its level of technical support to South Africa on a case-by-case basis. There has been a significant exchange of documentation and information in various areas, including strengthening of health services, maternal and child health, control of diarrhoeal and acute respiratory infectious diseases, tropical disease research, substance abuse, drug policies, tuberculosis and so on. Steps have also been taken to develop a database in support of several of those activities. Discussions with various officials have been held concerning future collaboration of WHO with South Africa, particularly concerning the establishment of a plan of action for the coordination and management of health programmes focusing on the building of health system infrastructure, on health science and technology, health promotion and medical care, health science technology and disease prevention and control.

62. A WHO mission visited South Africa in February 1993 and covered the following four major areas: the general functioning of the national

immunization programme as a part of primary health care activities and a basis from which to pursue polio eradication; the surveillance system for vaccine-preventable diseases; diagnostic virology activities, particularly of the polio diagnostic laboratory at the National Institute for Virology; and production and control of Expanded Programme of Immunization vaccines. A follow-up visit is planned for September 1993 to carry out further analysis of the vaccine production situation. This will be extremely important in the vaccine supply strategies for the Children's Vaccine Initiative, particularly as South Africa is in a potential position to supply vaccines for much of the African continent at low prices. Further activities related to the Expanded Programme are expected to be coordinated via the subregional office at Harare.

63. To follow up the Ministerial Conference on Malaria, organized by WHO in October 1992, observers from South Africa attended the African Regional Working Group on Malaria Control at Brazzaville in March 1993. An expert from South Africa also attended a WHO technical meeting on Air Quality Guidelines at Geneva in May 1993.

64. During WHO representation at the meeting of the Community Health Association of South Africa in August 1992, several of the outreach programmes visited offered good examples of the use of various levels of health personnel to provide coordinated preventive and restorative care programmes, both for schoolchildren and in the total community setting. An eagerness to become conversant with and to use WHO methodologies and care strategies was expressed. WHO is sponsoring and will participate in the All-African Conference on Tobacco Control being organized by the South African Health Research Group, to be held in Zimbabwe in November 1993. Much interest has been expressed in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and a participant from South Africa took part as an observer in one of the Commission's committees in 1992.

65. Briefings have been provided for various health experts and two observers from South Africa, who attended the fifth meeting of the Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres in 1992. Contacts have also been made by several institutes in South Africa concerning training in health service research and technical support, and technical support and assistance were provided to facilitate a workshop on emergency preparedness and response organized by the South African Red Cross Society in the last quarter of 1992.

E. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

66. The World Bank continues to expand its informal programme of economic and sectoral studies and capacity-building to provide some of the analytical and technical tools that South Africa will need in order to revive the economy and implement long-term economic restructuring. The Bank's initial emphasis on the macroeconomy and the urban and education sectors has been supplemented by work on agriculture and the rural economy, trade and industry, and small business promotion, with increasing focus on quantifying the investment needs in social infrastructure. The Bank's Economic Development Institute is supporting an ongoing three-year programme to help South African universities implement courses in project and economic management. With significant donor support, the Bank is providing technical help to South African universities and other institutions to carry out the country's first comprehensive poverty assessments.

67. The World Bank's programme of studies and capacity-building initiatives involves inputs from a wide range of institutional sources in South Africa, including extraparliamentary groups and non-governmental and grass-roots organizations. During 1993/94, the Bank plans to carry out a number of cross-sectoral activities essential to the political transition, including a review of the financial sector, and its potential for promoting economic growth and development. The Bank is willing to begin lending to a post-apartheid government when there is internal and external consensus for such an expansion of its role.

F. International Monetary Fund

68. South Africa continues to be a member of IMF. As with other members, periodic consultations under article IV of the Articles of Agreement are conducted with South Africa. Beyond those consultations, there are at present no IMF activities planned in South Africa. The Government of South Africa has not sought access to any of the IMF balance-of-payments financing facilities.

G. Universal Postal Union

69. In its resolution C 7/1984, the Congress of UPU confirmed the exclusion of South Africa from the Union and decided that South Africa could not take advantage of its status as a member of the United Nations to obtain readmission to UPU as long as it continued to practise the policy of apartheid. In September 1992, consultations with the Permanent Mission of South Africa at Geneva were held on the country's status in UPU. Following those consultations, the Managing Director of the South African Postal Administration invited a UPU technical committee to South Africa. In November 1992, the Director-General of the UPU International Bureau informed the Secretary-General about developments and the Bureau's intention to review the issue of South Africa at the session of its Executive Council on 14 May 1993. The Council took note of the related documentation and decided to return to the question of South Africa at its session in February 1994.

H. International Telecommunication Union

70. ITU has no activity inside South Africa at present. However, the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau held a preliminary discussion with the representative of the ANC in March 1993 and is awaiting an official request to explore the possibility of organizing a seminar on a democratic telecommunications policy for a non-racial South Africa and for future cooperation with the ANC.

I. World Meteorological Organization

71. The position of WMO on the policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa was laid down by its seventh Congress, in 1975. By its resolution 38 (Cg-VII), the Congress decided that the Government of the Republic of South Africa shall be immediately suspended from exercising its rights and enjoying

privileges as a member of WMO until it renounces its policy of racial discrimination. While WMO supports the present commendable efforts by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as mentioned in paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 47/116 A, it is not in a position to take any measures, within the purview of its Convention, to facilitate the peaceful elimination of apartheid and the transition of South Africa to a non-racial and democratic society as envisaged by paragraph 20 of the resolution.

J. International Maritime Organization

72. IMO has no ongoing or planned activities with regard to South Africa. IMO Assembly resolution A.310 (VIII) of 23 November 1973, which does not allow any participation of the representatives of South Africa in conferences or meetings of the Organization, has not been revoked or amended. Any further resolution adopted by the General Assembly on that matter will be reported to the IMO Council and the Assembly for their consideration and appropriate action.

K. World Intellectual Property Organization

73. In the framework of its development cooperation programme for Africa and pursuant to General Assembly resolutions, including, inter alia, resolution 47/107 of 16 December 1992, WIPO offered training fellowships in August 1992 to two persons from South Africa, one under the auspices of the ANC and the other under the auspices of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

L. International Fund for Agricultural Development

74. South Africa is not a member of IFAD and the Fund can therefore not provide financing to South Africa at present, owing to the nature and provision of the rules and procedures of IFAD, which limit assistance to member States of the Fund. However, IFAD experience gained so far in operating in southern Africa has given it an insight into future operations in South Africa. Action on the following fronts would be relevant, given the mandate of the Fund and the needs of the poorer groups in South Africa: (a) strengthening access of women to agricultural services and support for diversification of income-generating activities. The importance of these issues reflects the significant incidence of labour out-migration in the organization of rural production systems in the homelands; (b) the development of farmer-based service organizations, for example, in input and output handling, as well as for promotion of rural savings and credits given the African farmers. This is likely to be a priority item, which might draw upon experience in the commercial farming community; (c) establishment of small farmer/herder land rights in a context of uncertainty arising from the interaction between traditional and other systems of land rights; and (d) promotion of a focus on the poorer rural households.

M. International Atomic Energy Agency

75. South Africa became a member of IAEA in 1957. After several years of demands by the IAEA General Conference that South Africa submit all its nuclear activities to IAEA safeguards, South Africa acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 10 July 1991. On 16 September 1991, the Government of South Africa signed the required safeguards agreement, which entered into force upon signature. Pursuant to that agreement, IAEA immediately started to verify the completeness and correctness of the inventory of South Africa's nuclear installations and material. In March 1993, South Africa stated that it had produced a number of nuclear weapons before the safeguards agreement with IAEA had entered into force and that the nuclear material derived from them had been fully included in South Africa's initial report of 1991. IAEA is undertaking additional activities with the purpose of ascertaining whether the nuclear weapon programme has been terminated and verifying that all the nuclear material used in the programme has been accounted for and is under IAEA safeguards.

Notes

a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 22 (A/48/22).

b/ A/AC.115/L.694.

c/ See also A/AC.115/L.695.

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ELIMINATION OF APARTHEID AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNITED, DEMOCRATIC AND NON-RACIAL SOUTH AFRICA

Coordinated approach by the United Nations system on questions relating to South Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

ANNEX

I. UNITED NATIONS

B. United Nations programmes and other bodies

11. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

1. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between UNHCR and the Government of South Africa on 4 September 1991 led to a declaration by the Government of a general amnesty benefiting all South African refugees and political exiles. In accordance with its terms, procedures and formalities for readmission, reception and reintegration of returnees were set up and by the end of May 1993 10,957 South African refugees and exiles had registered for voluntary repatriation. Of those registered, the Government had cleared a total of 10,730 by the end of May 1993 and 6,604 had returned to South Africa under UNHCR auspices. Reintegration assistance in the form of cash grants has been provided to returnees, including those who had arrived prior to the establishment of a UNHCR presence. The provision of repatriation assistance is continuing and returnees holding cleared voluntary repatriation application forms are being transported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). IOM, funded by UNHCR, also provides reintegration assistance cash grants to returnees upon arrival.

2. The terms have been extended through September 1993. Students overseas who are expected to complete their cycles of study may return over the coming two

years. A certain reluctance to repatriate may be due to the prevailing economic recession and unstable political situation, the violence in the townships and the arrest and detention of some returnees. UNHCR, with the support of the local representatives of donor Governments, continues to monitor the situation of returnees, many of whom have suffered harassment, detention and the adverse effects of the violence in the townships.

3. The international donor community contributed $27,059,479 through UNHCR to finance the South African repatriation and reintegration operation. In addition, individual donors were asked to provide supplementary funding for small-scale pilot projects supported by UNHCR to develop income-generation and training programmes for returnees.

4. The Office of the UNHCR Chief of Mission in South Africa continues to discuss with the Government of South Africa the possibility of UNHCR regularizing its presence in the country in order to provide protection and assistance to Mozambican and other refugees. UNHCR's possible involvement in the voluntary repatriation of Mozambican refugees is also under discussion. It is hoped that the first multiracial and democratic elections planned for April 1994 will render possible greater UNHCR involvement with all refugees and returnees inside South Africa, including Mozambicans.

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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 47/12 of 29 October 1992, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States", the General Assembly took note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General (A/47/451) and requested the Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States (LAS), within their respective fields of competence, inter alia, to intensify further their cooperation towards the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the strengthening of international peace and security.

2. By the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and other organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations in order to enhance their capacity to serve the mutual interests of the two organizations in the political, economic, social, humanitarian, cultural and administrative fields; and to coordinate the follow-up action to facilitate the implementation of the proposals of a multilateral nature adopted at the Tunis meeting in 1983, and to take appropriate action regarding the proposals adopted at previous meetings.

3. The General Assembly decided that, in order to intensify cooperation and for the purpose of review and appraisal of progress as well as to prepare comprehensive periodic reports, a general meeting between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States should take place once every two years, and inter-agency sectoral meetings should be organized annually on areas of priority and wide importance in the development of the Arab States.

4. The General Assembly recommended that the next general meeting on cooperation between the representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations system and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations should be held during 1993, in commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the first general meeting of cooperation between the two organizations, and also requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the executive heads of the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to cooperate with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States for the success of the meeting and the realization of its objectives.

5. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, to encourage periodic consultation between representatives of the Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to review and strengthen coordination mechanisms with a view to accelerating implementation and follow-up action of multilateral projects, proposals and recommendations adopted by the meetings between the two organizations.

6. The General Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution.

II. CONSULTATIONS AND EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION

7. On 28 September 1992, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat met with the Under-Secretary-General for International Political Affairs, League of Arab States, at United Nations Headquarters. They discussed matters of cooperation between the two organizations, in particular the forthcoming general meeting to be held in 1993 commemorating the tenth anniversary of the first general meeting of cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States. They agreed to hold a preparatory meeting between the coordinating secretariats to discuss necessary arrangements for the general meeting.

8. On 30 September 1992, the Secretary-General of the United Nations met with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States at the United Nations Headquarters. They took the opportunity to exchange views on matters of common interest, in particular the promotion of peace and development in the Arab world.

9. The meeting between the coordinating secretariats of the United Nations and the League of Arab States was held at United Nations Headquarters on 10 and 11 May 1993. It considered, among other things, the dates, venue, provisional agenda, programme of work, documentation and level of participation for the general meeting.

10. During the period under review, the secretariats of the United Nations and LAS, as well as the Office of the Permanent Observer for the League of Arab States to the United Nations continued to maintain close contact on matters of mutual concern to the two organizations.

III. HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON ARAB CHILD AT TUNIS IN 1992

11. Pursuant to the recommendation of the sectoral meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and the League of Arab States which was held at Geneva on 25 and 26 November 1991, a high-level ministerial meeting on Child Welfare Protection and Development was held at Tunis on 17 and 18 November 1992.

12. The meeting was addressed, among others, by the Prime Minister of Tunisia, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

13. The meeting approved the Pan-Arab Plan for Child Care, Protection and Development. It also adopted six resolutions which constitute an agenda for action for the Arab countries in the 1990s (see paras. 35-39).

IV. FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON PROPOSALS AGREED TO AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

14. It may be recalled that the joint meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and the League of Arab States, held at Geneva in July 1990 (see A/45/481/Add.1), decided to establish the following six sectoral areas of cooperation between the two organizations:

(a) International peace and security;

(b) Food and agriculture;

(c) Labour, trade, industry and environment;

(d) Social affairs;

(e) Education, science, culture and information;

(f) Communications.

15. A summary of reports of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system on their cooperation with LAS during the period under review is given below. This summary includes the activities in the sectoral areas, as well as the follow-up action on proposals adopted at the previous meetings at Tunis in 1983 (A/38/299 and Corr.1); at Amman in 1985 (A/40/481/Add.1); and at Geneva in 1988 (A/43/509/Add.1) and in 1990 (A/45/481/Add.1).

A. Department of Economic and Social Development

Science and technology

16. The Department of Economic and Social Development participated in various technical cooperation projects in most LAS member countries (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, United Arab Emirates and Yemen). The projects involved, inter alia, a science and research centre and activities in the fields of electricity/energy, urban and municipal planning and infrastructure, transport, and new and renewable sources of energy and capacity-building activities.

Demography

17. The Department participated at meetings which involved or were sponsored by LAS, such as the Regional Population Conference held in Jordan, in April 1993.

Statistics

18. The Department continued to work closely with LAS, routinely providing it and its member States with statistical and methodological outputs of the United Nations Statistical Programme. Major progress was made in the implementation of the Pan-Arab Project for Child Development (PAPCHILD) survey programme on Maternal and Child Health in Algeria, Egypt, Mauritania, the Sudan, Syrian Arab

Republic and Yemen. An independent evaluation mission took place in May 1993 to assess the first phase of the programme.

19. With regard to PAPCHILD, the Department has an ongoing project of about US$ 763,000 financed by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the period 1988-1993. Financial inputs for an additional US$ 2 million were provided by the Arab Gulf Fund, LAS and organizations of the United Nations system to enable the Ministry of Health, national child welfare councils, research and policy studies centres in the Arab region to obtain timely and integrated flow of information for formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating policies and programmes on maternal and child care, health and development, in a cost-effective manner.

20. The second phase of PAPCHILD has a total budget of US$ 3.2 million for a period of 42 months. This phase is aimed at ensuring the undertaking of in-depth data evaluation and comparative analysis of survey data outputs of 12 countries, as well as the holding of a regional conference on the subject. The bulk of these activities will be undertaken primarily by the Population Research Unit of LAS.

Legal advisory services

21. The Department has been executing in various countries, including Algeria, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, a series of advisory and training works in such areas as drafting investment laws and regulations; legal assistance in reconstruction and economic recovery, and in drafting investment codes; and advisory services on the legal aspects relating to the execution of national projects.

Programme support

22. In cooperation with LAS, the Department executed projects in the fields of health, administration and economic research. The Department is also involved in capacity-building activities. The thirteenth meeting of national recruitment services, held at Cairo from 29 March to 2 April 1993, adopted the Cairo Plan of Action which had as the objective the development of human resources and of capacity-building activities. During that meeting, the Government of Tunisia and LAS decided to each host a further search workshop; Tunisia in late 1993, and LAS in early 1994.

23. The Department is further involved in consultancy services aimed at strengthening the administrative capacity of LAS through the development of a comprehensive Administrative Development Plan, and the design and implementation of a comprehensive Management Information System covering all aspects of LAS activities.

B. Department of Humanitarian Affairs

24. During the period under review, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs continued to keep the League of Arab States informed of the relief assistance provided to the Arab countries. In this regard, it mobilized and coordinated assistance to the following member States: Egypt - Following the earthquake

which hit Cairo in October 1992, the Department dispatched a team specializing in search and rescue operations; Djibouti - Assistance was provided within the framework of United Nations efforts to assist the countries in the Horn of Africa; Iraq - The Interagency Humanitarian Programme for Iraq, Kuwait and Iraq/Turkey and Iraq/Iran border areas established in the wake of the Gulf war in 1991 was extended during 1992 and is expected to continue in 1993; Lebanon - Relief assistance was provided following severe and prolonged snow storms affecting Lebanon at the beginning of 1992; Mauritania - the Department is working with the Government to set up a project for the maintenance of trucks which will be used by the Commissionership for Food Security to distribute food aid to remote regions; Somalia - An appeal for humanitarian assistance was launched in July 1992. In October 1992, the first Coordination Meeting on Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia was convened in Geneva by the Department; Sudan - Mobilization and coordination of humanitarian assistance continued in 1992 and is still going on; and Yemen - An appeal for international assistance was launched in February 1993, following flash floods in Aden and the adjacent territories, which affected more than one million people.

25. In the field of disaster preparedness and prevention, the Department has undertaken the following activities in the following countries that are member States of LAS.

Algeria

26. Within the framework of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, the Department is engaged in a project aimed at setting up guidelines and training for small-building contractors for antiseismic constructions. The project is in progress. A manual is to be published for small-building contractors, for whom a training workshop is scheduled to be held in 1993.

Egypt

27. A joint project with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on "Development of Disaster Preparedness, Prevention and Management Planning" was completed in June 1992. A second stage is being discussed. Two experts were sent to Cairo following the earthquake of October 1992 to investigate structural damage to engineering structures and to formulate recommendations on the organization of disaster preparedness and prevention in the country.

Sudan

28. In cooperation with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) organized the "Regional Meeting on Disasters in Africa" in Addis Ababa in April 1992. The meeting adopted a recommendation to establish a multidisciplinary "Centre for Disasters" which the Government of the Sudan offered to host. The project is still under discussion between the Department, OAU and the Government of the Sudan with a view to defining the overall objectives, as well as the components of the Centre's work programme.

Yemen

29. In May 1992, at the request of the Government of Yemen, a staff member from the Department of Humanitarian Affairs undertook a mission to assess the

relevance and effectiveness of the "Dhamar Earthquake Reconstruction Programme" launched in the aftermath of the 1989 earthquake. The conclusions reached by the mission will be applied to the earthquake reconstruction programme throughout the region.

30. The Department is still waiting to receive from the Arab Interior Ministers Council and LAS, a new appraisal and suggestions regarding the organization of a joint seminar on disaster preparedness and prevention in the Arab countries. The seminar has been postponed several times owing mainly to their lack of adequate participation.

31. A national workshop on disasters, implemented under the Disaster Management Training Programme was held at Khartoum from 25 to 31 January 1993. Similar workshops organized in Lebanon and Yemen have resulted in some seven training modules being translated into Arabic.

32. National workshops are planned to be held in Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic before the end of 1993. In addition, Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia will take part in a regional training workshop for French-speaking African countries to be organized during 1993.

33. Within the framework of United Nations policy to strengthen regional cooperation, the American University of Beirut (Faculty of Health Sciences) was selected as a regional collaborating institution for the implementation of the Disaster Management Training Programme in the Arab States.

C. United Nations Children's Fund

34. The main focus of cooperation between the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the League of Arab States was on UNICEF assistance to LAS in organizing a high-level ministerial meeting held in November 1992 at Tunis. In his address at the opening session of the meeting, the Executive Director of UNICEF emphasized support for Arab Governments in their accelerated implementation of their national programmes of action in observance of the commitments made at the World Summit for Children.

35. The meeting approved the Pan-Arab Plan for Child Care, Protection and Development. The resolutions if adopted constitute an ambitious but feasible agenda for action on behalf of Arab children in the 1990s. In addition to providing a framework and reference for the formulation and implementation of the national programmes of action the Pan-Arab Plan can be used as a rallying point for mobilizing regional resources required to attain the proposed goals and targets. The meeting also welcomed the convening of the OAU-sponsored International Conference on Assistance to African Children and called upon the "Arab countries who are members of the Organization of African Unity to attend the meeting and to participate actively in its deliberations and at the highest possible level".

36. To achieve the goals and targets set in the Plan which relate to health, malnutrition, water and sanitation, and primary education, a review of estimated additional resource requirements was undertaken by LAS, with UNICEF support. The review showed that only modest national, regional and international

resources in the amount of US$ 2 billion are needed every year. This estimate amounts to less than 1 per cent of the gross national product of the LAS member countries. Of this amount, US$ 1.4 billion might be provided internally, using national resources; about US$ 600 million will have to be provided externally either from within the LAS member States or from other donor nations and aid agencies.

37. The Plan and the resolutions adopted by the meeting emphasized the achievement of short-term goals in child survival, protection and development, as well as the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Education for females, particularly for girls, was given high priority, as was the protection of children in especially difficult circumstances. UNICEF helped LAS develop a stronger regional perspective on children by supporting the preparation of a regional situation analysis on children, a review of the situation of children in the Maghreb and the Gulf countries, a regional statistical profile on children, as well as an analysis of the region's experience in achieving Universal Child Immunization in 1990. These documents were produced for the Tunis meeting.

38. In cooperation with LAS, UNICEF plans to promote various aspects of the Pan-Arab Plan through regional consultations and workshops, including a workshop on the Arab family, a workshop on implementing national programmes of action at the gubernatorial or provincial and municipal level, a regional consultation on education for girls, a non-governmental organization forum and a meeting on developing fund-raising strategies in the region. In addition, UNICEF will support thematic kits on priority concerns of the Pan-Arab Plan in such areas as measles control strategies, polio surveillance, malnutrition, micronutrients, malnutrition, breast-feeding and the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, and children and the environment, as well as a summary of the Pan-Arab Plan and the relevant resolutions.

39. The above activities are aimed, among other things, at assisting LAS in efforts undertaken to strengthen its capacities and impact on promoting the well-being of the Arab child.

D. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

40. During the period under review, cooperation between the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations was further strengthened, in particular with regard to the inter-sectoral project initiated by the UNCTAD secretariat on prospects for sustained development of the Palestinian economy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

41. The project comprises the following: a thorough examination of the social and economic situation of the Palestinian people during the past 25 years of occupation; the identification of impediments to the sustained growth of the economy and of feasible measures for its revival under present circumstances; an investigation of future prospects for the economy's sustained growth and development under alternative scenarios, reflecting varying assumptions and their implications on the aggregate and sectoral economic and social indicators. The project is further aimed at formulating a consolidated framework of feasible

strategies and policy options for the economic and social development of the Palestinian territory into the year 2000 and beyond, including appropriate action required from the international community and the Palestinian people. As part of the implementation of the project, a total of 25 specific studies are being completed at the field level by local experts, covering all major economic and social sectors. In order to guide the work of the local experts in a concerted manner, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a study of a quantitative framework identifying the optional courses for the future sustained growth and development of the Palestinian economy in the light of historical trends and possible future developments affecting the economy.

42. The Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO) and the General Secretariat of LAS have made financial contributions to the project.

43. The UNCTAD secretariat has also maintained its regular consultations with the Department of Palestine at the General Secretariat of LAS on issues of mutual concern, including the exchange of documents and information.

E. United Nations Development Programme

44. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported the establishment of an Arab Regional Information System Network ARIS-NET-RAB/86/010), a very modern and sophisticated documentation and information centre for the League of Arab States, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). This builds on previous assistance to establish the Arab League Documentation Centre (ALDOC) (RAB/79/030 - ALDOC) which promotes the development of information activities in the Arab region and provides information services to selected user groups.

45. UNDP is also supporting a LAS administrative and management development project by developing the organizational structure of LAS departments, setting up work methods and procedures, installing and applying Management Information Systems, and drawing up manpower development plans and personnel procedures. The project is co-funded by the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations AGFUND and executed by the Department of Economic and Social Development of the United Nations Secretariat.

Cooperation with the LAS specialized and associated agencies

46. The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) is also executing UNDP projects which include the following:

(a) RAB/89/009 - a preparatory assistance project with the International Centre for Agricultural Research and Dry Areas (ICARDA) providing assistance to Cereal Disease Surveillance and Germplasm Enhancement;

(b) RAB/89/015 - a research study project with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) on the economics of barley; AFESD is co-funding this project;

(c) RAB/89/018 - see paragraph 47;

(d) RAB/89/025 - Establishment of regional software technology centres aimed at developing state-of-the-art capacity to develop software technology and engineering; AFESD is co-funding this project;

(e) RAB/91/016 - Establishment of the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) which is aimed at becoming the focus of environmental activities as related to sustainable development in the Arab region and the Mediterranean basin. As an intergovernmental organization, this recently created centre, which is supported and funded jointly by UNDP and AFESD, has been fully endorsed by LAS.

47. The Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) has been involved in a preparatory assistance project on the Utilization of Cotton Crop Residues in the Production of Animal Feeds (RAB/89/018 - PA) with AFESD as executing agency. AOAD is executing a UNDP project to assist countries of the region in upgrading the national capacities in agricultural research management through participation in country agricultural technology management systems studies and national and regional workshops (RAB/89/027). AOAD is also executing a UNDP project to increase the production and productivity of oilseed crops in the participating Arab countries, in harmony with national development plans of the countries concerned (RAB/89/024).

48. The Arab Telecommunications Union (ATU) serves on the Steering Committee of a UNDP telecommunication development project (RAB/89/001) which is assisting Arab telecommunication administrations in establishing an Arab Regional Data Communication Network and news services.

49. Under a regional umbrella project (RAB/88/005), UNDP provided assistance to the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) in the enhancement of private sector involvement in development. AMF is the intergovernmental implementing agency for two projects supporting the Arab Trade Financing Programme (ATFP): RAB/88/018, a project aimed at the establishment of systems and procedures for financing intra-Arab trade, and RAB/91/004, which builds on the previous phase and continues support for ATFP through the establishment of an information core to be developed gradually into an on-line intra-Arab trade information service network. UNDP also sponsored jointly with AMF and ATFP the Seminar on Technical Cooperation for the Development of Arab Trade, held at Abu Dhabi from 10 to 12 April 1993, and is currently preparing the framework of a regional trade programme based on the recommendations of the Seminar.

50. In collaboration with Inter Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation, UNDP completed the study on the Performance of Arab Investments in Arab Countries under project RAB/87/012. The study was aimed at determining the factors affecting the success or failure of private Arab investment in seven countries; it was co-funded by IAIGC.

51. The Arab Maritime Transport Academy (AMTA) has implemented a UNDP project for the establishment of a network of mutually supportive Arab training institutions within the region (RAB/88/010).

52. The Arab Industrial Development Organization (AIDO) is cooperating in and is co-funding with UNDP, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and other agencies, project RAB/87/013 on the establishment of

engineering infrastructure through the development of the engineering industry by analysing intermediate markets (casting, forging and tool-room products).

53. In implementation of projects RAB/84/001 and RAB/86/056, the Arab Civil Aviation Council (ACAC) collaborated with UNDP in providing assistance to the Civil Aviation College at Doha, Qatar, with a view to establishing self-reliance in the provision of civil aviation technical services.

54. The Arab Postal Union (APU) was the intergovernmental cooperating agency in the implementation of project RAB/83/010 on "Postal Development and Training of Specialists". The project was aimed at the improvement and expansion of the modes of transport and communications in the region as one of the important means of enhancing economic and social integration and cooperation.

55. UNDP has been cooperating closely with the Arab Labour Organization (ALO) in carrying out projects to enable the labour administrations in the Arab region to participate in the elaboration and implementation of economic and social development plans, the improvement of working conditions and environment, the full utilization of human resources and the application of labour laws and regulations. Executed by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the projects included RAB/83/002 - Regional Arab Centre for Labour Administration, and RAB/90/017 - Regional Arab Programme for Labour Administration (RAPLA). UNDP sponsored jointly with ALO and ILO the Seminar on Employment Policies, held at Cairo in May 1993. UNDP has embarked on a second phase of the project for RAPLA (RAB/93/002) with a view to ensuring the full transfer of RAPLA to ALO.

F. United Nations Environment Programme

56. The Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) developed a joint priority programme to combat desertification, increase land green cover, stem industrial pollution and promote environmental education, awareness and information. During its sixteenth session, the UNEP Governing Council approved in its 1992-1993 biennium budget, subject to availability of funds, US$ 750,000 for a core programme and US$ 600,000 for a supplementary programme for cooperation with CAMRE. When LAS transferred it headquarters to Cairo in 1991, UNEP expanded its liaison office and began to develop with CAMRE a suitable project proposal for 1992-1993 to implement the joint priority programme and to strengthen and support CAMRE institutions.

57. In cooperation with LAS, UNEP approved a project of US$ 100,000 for 1993 which was to be completed during the first half of that year.

58. Under the project, CAMRE and UNEP organized the following workshop for 1992-1993:

(a) Combating desertification: North Africa Green Belt Experience: water methods used for soil conservation; development and protection of the range resources in Radiat Al Sham;

(b) Combating industrial pollution: Status of industrial pollution in the Arab Region; general Guidelines for the detailed diagnosis of environmental impacts of different industries;

(c) Environmental Education, Awareness and Information: Environmental models in official Arab education programmes at all levels.

59. Furthermore, CAMRE in close cooperation with UNEP, developed 13 programmes on the environment reflecting its plans for the coming decades. These programmes are closely related to Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. The first meeting of the Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab region aimed at coordinating all environmental activities in the region was held at Amman on 17 April 1993.

G. United Nations Population Fund

60. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the League of Arab States enjoy an excellent working partnership. UNFPA provided assistance to LAS in creating a Population Research Unit (PRU) responsible for undertaking population and population-related research for advocacy and policy matters. Through the years, PRU carried out the important role of making ministerial councils of health and of social affairs sensitive to population matters. More recently, under its regular budget, LAS hired specialists and contributed financially for the activities of PRU which is receiving technical assistance from UNFPA. The Unit's current activities include analysis of demographic, socio-economic and health data at country and regional levels; research on migration; study on the status of Arab women in society and their contribution to development; and dissemination of information on population.

61. The Pan-Arab Project for Child Development (PAPCHILD) is another joint project of UNFPA and LAS. The project is funded jointly by LAS, AGFUND, UNFPA, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), the World Bank and the United Nations. Its objective is to assist 14 non-oil producing Arab countries to undertake a comprehensive demographic, socio-economic and health survey to establish the levels and trends of maternal and child health indicators including, inter alia, contraceptive prevalency and maternal mortality. To date, surveys have been undertaken in Algeria, Egypt, Mauritania, the Sudan and Yemen. Surveys in the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia are ongoing. Plans for a survey to be undertaken in Lebanon are under way.

62. The third area of cooperation is the Arab Population Conference which was held at Amman in April 1993. The conference was co-sponsored by ESCWA, LAS and UNFPA. LAS participated actively in all the meetings of the organizing committee and provided funds to cover the cost of participation of its staff and participants from less developed countries in the Arab region.

H. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

63. As a United Nations agency dealing with over 2.7 million Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Occupied Territory of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) views its relationship with LAS as an important factor in its work. To this end, there is regular flow of information and close cooperation between the LAS Secretariat and UNRWA.

64. At the invitation of the League of Arab States, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA attended the meeting of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, held at Cairo in April 1993 and briefed the Council on UNRWA operations, focusing on the financial shortfall faced by the agency in 1993.

65. The Commissioner-General of UNRWA and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States maintain regular contact. UNRWA representatives contribute to, and participate in, various technical meetings held under the auspices of LAS. For example, in November 1992, UNRWA participated in a meeting on the Arab Child, held at Tunis.

66. The League of Arab States continues to provide strong support to UNRWA and has intensified its efforts to urge its States members to increase their contributions to the agency.

I. World Food Programme

67. Cooperation between member countries of the League of Arab States and the World Food Programme (WFP) is long-standing. WFP current commitments to 32 ongoing development projects in LAS member countries amount to US$ 530 million. Most of the currently operational development projects are in the agricultural sector and contribute to enhancing the sustained ability of the land to provide people and their animals with the basic means of sustenance. Other operational projects in Arab countries concentrate on human resources development, principally on achieving universal primary education and improving access to mother-child health care services in rural areas.

68. In 1992, WFP food resources devoted to life-sustaining emergency operations rose to 60 per cent of all shipments. This was brought about by the dramatic rise in the number of displaced and refugee population groups in need of emergency food relief resulting mainly from armed conflicts in many parts of the world and from natural disasters. WFP dispatched an all-time record of 5.2 million tons of food to relieve the emergency food needs of an estimated 27 million people. LAS member countries were the major recipients of WFP emergency food assistance in 1992, in particular, Somalia (US$ 128 million), Iraq (US$ 80 million) and the Sudan (US$ 53 million). In addition, WFP provided relief assistance to displaced persons in Djibouti and Yemen.

J. Economic Commission for Africa

69. Direct relations between the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the League of Arab States are very limited, although potential for deeper cooperation exists. Interaction between ECA and LAS is mainly through the assistance given by the Commission to the African member States of the League within the framework of its work programme and activities.

70. Outlined below are activities carried out by ECA in 1992 and those envisaged for 1993 in African countries that are member States of LAS.

Economic integration and development

71. Through its Tangier-based Multinational Programming and Operational Centre (MULPOC), ECA assists African member States of LAS in their economic integration and development efforts. In this regard, ECA carried out the following projects in 1992: (a) a study on preventive measures against locust and grasshopper invasion in North Africa; (b) proposals for fostering trade in agricultural products as a step towards the establishment of an agricultural common market in North Africa; (c) a study on the establishment of wheat and cereal authority in North Africa; and (d) a study on the promotion and strengthening of economic integration in North Africa.

72. In 1993, ECA plans to organize seminars on the development and exploitation of fishery resources and on common strategies and policies in the fields of petroleum, gas and electric power in the context of promoting secured and stable energy production and supply in North Africa. In addition, ECA is studying the possibility of establishing a Preferential Trade Area in North Africa as a vehicle and machinery towards greater economic cooperation and integration involving all the countries of the subregion.

Pan-African Development Information System

73. The ECA Pan-African Development Information System (PADIS) cooperates with LAS in the field of information technology, including the Arabization of software. PADIS has close relations with the Arab League Documentation Centre of LAS. In collaboration with ALDOC, PADIS developed the North African Development Information System (NADIS) and the Arab Regional Information System Network (ARISNET). PADIS and ALDOC also organized joint training programmes and have trained nine nationals from North Africa. PADIS also interacts with other specialized organizations of LAS.

Statistics

74. In the field of statistics, constituents of LAS participate in the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers as well as in seminars and workshops organized by ECA.

Natural resources

75. Advisory services and data collection missions were fielded by ECA to Algeria, Egypt, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco and Tunisia on the rational use

and conservation of water resources in these countries. Based on the information collected, ECA prepared a detailed study on the subject.

76. In marine affairs, ECA fielded advisory service and information collection missions to a number of African countries that are members of LAS, and prepared a technical report on legal arrangements for the development of joint ventures among developed and developing countries for the exploitation and exploration of marine resources.

Trade

77. ECA will participate, as a collaborating agency with OAU and LAS in the First Afro-Arab Trade Fair to be held at Tunis, from 22 to 31 October 1993.

78. In view of the central role of ECA in promoting socio-economic development and integration of the African region as a whole, and of the mutual interest of ECA and LAS in supporting the development efforts of their common member States, it is the desire of ECA to establish closer formal cooperation between its secretariat and that of LAS.

K. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

79. During the period under review, efforts were intensified to harmonize activities with the League of Arab States in order to avoid duplication of work.

80. The Statistics Division of ESCWA participated in the seventeenth session of the Standing Committee on Statistics of LAS, held at Cairo in July 1992. The Transport and Communications Division (TCD) of ESCWA collaborated with the Committee of Experts established by the technical secretariat of LAS in reviewing the various documents submitted by different countries and agencies, and proposed the methodology for the study to be undertaken for a Unified Arab Triptick (UAT). The Division played an active role in the meetings of the Committee of Experts held in April and October 1992.

81. The Transport and Communications Division prepared an outline of a three-stage study which will include the collection of up-to-date information on existing road plans for links connecting LAS member countries, and which will formulate a plan comprising four Trans-Arab Corridors including two in Asian-Arab countries, with ferry services from Aqaba to Nuwaibi in Suez connecting both corridors. The study will be completed by the Regional Arab Road Networks.

82. The Arab Population Conference held at Amman from 4 to 8 April 1993 was convened jointly by ESCWA, LAS and UNFPA. The Conference adopted the Amman Second Declaration on Population and Development in the Arab World which reflects the Arab position on the subject. The results of the Conference as expressed in the Declaration will constitute the Arab contribution to the preparation of the United Nations 1994 International Conference on Population and Development to be held at Cairo in September 1994.

83. Within the Industrial Development Programme, ESCWA has collaborated with LAS in the implementation of the "Special Programme for Industrial Development

in the Arab Countries". In this connection, a meeting was held at Cairo on 28 and 29 November 1992 in which the project documents were reviewed and the plan of action for future work and financing was set up.

84. Under the Environment Programme, and as a follow-up to Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), two preparatory meetings involving United Nations regional organizations and other intergovernmental regional organizations were held during 1992. The meetings sought agreement on the terms of reference and mandates for establishing a Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region (JCED). The first meeting of the Committee was held at the ESCWA headquarters at Amman in April 1993 to agree on an interim plan of action for the implementation at the regional level of Agenda 21.

L. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

85. In the context of its cooperation with the LAS secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) co-sponsored with LAS and the Government of Egypt, the "Arab States Regional Conference on National Shelter Strategies", held at Cairo in December 1992. The Conference, organized within the framework of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, aimed at furthering cooperation among member States of the League in the formulation and implementation of national shelter strategies, as well as in the monitoring of the performance of the shelter sector. In addition, a Data Management Advisory Mission to the LAS secretariat was undertaken by UNCHS (Habitat) during March and April 1993 in order to assess the computerization needs of the LAS technical secretariat for housing and reconstruction and to introduce the latest computer applications developed by UNCHS (Habitat). Further, a representative of LAS participated in the fourteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements held at Nairobi in April and May 1993.

86. At the country level, there are currently 24 ongoing projects in 13 Arab States. At the regional level, within the framework of its regional project on "Training of Trainers in Urban Finance and Management", UNCHS (Habitat) has conducted a series of six workshops for the benefit of senior officials from government agencies, local authorities and training institutions. The workshops address issues of training and human resources development in support of decentralization and administrative reform.

87. UNCHS (Habitat) continues to regularly disseminate, either directly from its Nairobi headquarters, or through its Regional Information Office for Arab States located at Amman, Jordan, information and publications on human settlements and on issues of particular concern to member States of LAS.

M. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

88. Cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the League of Arab States has, over the last nine years, developed mainly in the field of international protection of refugees, asylum seekers and persons in refugee-like situations.

89. Regular contacts have been maintained between the two organizations. The question of cooperation was discussed at length by the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General of LAS in December 1992 at the LAS headquarters at Cairo.

90. Within the context of increased global awareness of the social, economic and environmental impact of population movements, several areas of cooperation have been identified and it is expected that further contacts will enable the two parties to elaborate concrete collaborative activities and mechanisms for future cooperation.

91. The most important issues under consideration by LAS and UNHCR are the following:

(a) The conclusion of the Cooperation Agreement between UNHCR and LAS;

(b) The finalization of the Arab convention on refugees;

(c) The organization of seminars on refugee law in the Arab countries;

(d) The organization of a regional seminar for non-governmental organizations on refugees and asylum seekers with the main objective of making optimum use of the organizations' capacity to disseminate information, and their advocacy, fund-raising and operational potential in the resolution of refugee situations in Arab countries and other regions where some of these organizations are already involved in assistance programmes for refugees;

(e) Follow-up on previous discussions with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) to identify areas of cooperation in the field of educational assistance to refugees; and

(f) The strengthening of UNHCR cooperation with other specialized organizations of LAS in the fields of common interest.

N. International Labour Organisation

92. The Skills Development Programme for Arab Countries (SDEPAC) continued to carry out its operations. SDEPAC organized regional seminars on skill testing and certification, integration of women in training activities and return migration and its implications on training. Furthermore, SDEPAC intensified its activities related to training information systems, development and exchange of training materials and preparation of the modular skill training programmes. SDEPAC also played a catalytic role in arranging technical assistance on the basis of technical cooperation among developing countries.

93. The Regional Arab Programme for Labour Administration (RAPLA) continued to conduct its activities. It organized two training courses, one on the training of trainers on labour inspection in collaboration with the Arab Occupational Safety and Health Institute, and the other on the training of trainers on conditions of work. RAPLA also organized, in collaboration with ILO, a tripartite regional seminar on working conditions. RAPLA intensified its activities relating to the translation into Arabic of various ILO manuals, including those on international labour standards, labour inspection on chemical safety, labour administration in a changing world, and vocational guidance. RAPLA also prepared a guide on labour administration in the Arab countries. A proposal for the third phase of the project was formulated in consultation with the concerned parties and agreement was reached, in principle, on the financing of the project.

94. The ILO/UNDP regional project "Support to Arab migration policies" organized a regional seminar to discuss the findings of the studies undertaken within the framework of the project. A proposal for the regional project on migration policies of the Arab labour-sending countries was formulated in accordance with the recommendations of the seminar.

95. Following close cooperation between the ILO and LAS on the establishment of the Arab League Documentation Centre, the ILO Central Library and Documentation Branch has, since 1983, provided the League, every six months, with records from its bibliographic database, LABORDOC, which relate to Arab countries.

96. ILO was represented at the high-level Arab regional meeting on the protection of children organized by the League of Arab States, as well as at the general meeting on cooperation between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States.

97. At the ILO/ALO Joint Committee meeting held in February 1992, an agreement was reached on a two-year programme of joint activities such as seminars and studies in the technical fields of employment, vocational training, employers' activities, child labour, women workers and international labour standards. It was also agreed to collaborate in the translation of four ILO publications into Arabic and in the production of radio programmes.

98. Assistance was provided to the Council of Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs in the Gulf States in conducting a seminar on labour inspection. Work has begun on a child labour project with AGFUND.

99. Multidisciplinary missions to Bahrain, Jordan and Qatar were undertaken to assist in fields such as manpower planning, labour market information, social security, cooperatives, enterprise development and vocational rehabilitation. In addition, the Office continued to grant fellowships to participants in ILO training activities.

100. A number of missions were undertaken by regional advisers in the fields of employment and development, vocational training, employers' activities, workers' activities, vocational rehabilitation and women workers' questions.

O. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

1. Technical studies

101. During the period under review, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) prepared a number of technical studies which were of relevance to the work of the League of Arab States. The studies included the following: Integration of Sustainability and Environmental Considerations with Agricultural Policy Analysis in the Near East Region; Impact of Structural Adjustment Programmes on Agricultural Development and Performance in the Near East Region, with particular reference to Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia; Genetic Basis for the Formation of Broiler and Egg Chicken Lines, and various technical reports related to FAO meetings, workshops and conferences organized in the region.

2. Regional meetings

102. LAS actively participated in the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN), held at Cairo in April 1992. It was represented at the ICN, held in Rome in December 1992.

103. LAS and some of its specialized organizations such as AOAD, the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) and the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) are participating actively in specialized fields in the Regional Inter-Agency Task Forces which have been initiated by the FAO Regional Office for the Near East.

104. The FAO Regional Office for the Near East has cooperated closely with AOAD and other LAS specialized organizations in preparing for the following meetings for 1993:

(a) Consultations of Experts on the Status of Seed Technology in the Near East (30 March-2 April 1993 at Tunis), organized by the Regional Office for the Near East with AOAD participation;

(b) Regional Workshop on the Management and Development of the Rangeland in the Arab Region (3-6 April 1993 at Amman), organized by the Regional Office for the Near East and LAS with the participation of AOAD and ACSAD;

(c) Second Arab Conference on Perspectives of Modern Biotechnology (24-28 April 1993 at Amman), organized by the FAO Regional Office for the Near East, the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils and the Arab Union of Manufacturers of Pharmaceutical and Medical Appliances;

(d) Regional Workshop on the Utilization of Agro-industrial Wastes (15-18 November 1993 at Damascus) being organized by the Regional Office for the Near East, AOAD and UNESCO.

3. Technical cooperation

105. FAO continued to provide to various development programmes of the LAS specialized organizations, technical support which included technical consultations organized by the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and AOAD to coordinate and streamline cooperative programmes and to implement joint activities in the region being served by both organizations. These programmes and activities included organizing consultations of experts in fields of priority interest; strengthening activities on technical and economic cooperation among developing countries in the Arab region; conducting workshops and training activities, as well as organizing regional conferences on subjects of interest to the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) in the Arab region. FAO initiated cooperation with AOAD in the field of plant protection, particularly in relation to the work of the FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Near East.

106. There has been considerable cooperation in the fisheries sector between FAO and LAS specialized bodies. The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) agreed in June 1992 to provide a second grant of US$ 370,000 to support the extension until the end of 1993 of Phase II of the FAO Fish Marketing Information, Promotion and Technical Advisory Services for Arab Countries (INFOSAMAK) project. Contacts were established with AOAD and with the LAS Economic Affairs Department to ensure the continuation of INFOSAMAK after termination of Phase II of the project as an independent Arab organization under the jurisdiction of Bahrain. The FAO Regional Office for the Near East participated in the Arab Federation of Fish Producers (AFFP) General Assembly and assisted in the organization of the Third Arab Seminar for Planning and Development of Farming Fish and Crustaceans, held at Damascus from 9 to 12 May 1993. FAO presented a paper entitled "Proposal to Establish an Information System for the Development of Aquaculture in the Arab Countries". FAO provided financial support amounting to US$ 4,000 towards the organization of the seminar.

4. Exchange of information

107. Following a request from LAS, FAO provided the League with the Arabic versions of the Agricultural Extension Reference Manual "The WCARRD - Ten Years of Follow-up and the Guide to Extension Training".

108. During 1992, exchange of information on various subjects was intensified at the regional level through the work of the specialized regional Inter-Agency Task Forces. LAS and its specialized organizations - AOAD, ACSAD, CAEU - have been participating actively in the work of the Task Forces, particularly in the following areas: Land and Water Resources; Environment and Sustainable Development; Biotechnology Applications and Transfer of Technology; Food and Nutrition; Human Resources and Gender Development; Plant Production and Protection; and Animal Production and Health.

P. International Civil Aviation Organization

109. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) maintains close liaison with the League of Arab States, through the ICAO Middle East Regional Office located at Cairo, on matters relating to civil aviation. ICAO follows with interest the action of LAS relating to the establishment of a civil aviation commission.

110. The League of Arab States is invited to relevant ICAO meetings, including sessions of the Assembly of ICAO, on air transport regulatory policy.

111. ICAO executes an important technical cooperation programme in many member States of LAS. The programme provides training assistance, civil aviation expertise and advice on developing the civil aviation infrastructure. ICAO has assisted in the establishment of several training institutes in the Middle East region, in full cooperation with UNDP and some Arab countries. The ICAO TRAINAIR Programme, which seeks to standardize training curricula and methods, has been introduced by ICAO in training centres at Cairo and Amman where it has been actively pursued. The Third TRAINAIR Coordination Conference was held at Cairo in April 1992.

Q. World Health Organization

112. The World Health Organization (WHO) continued its cooperation with the League of Arab States as follows:

(a) Implementing the PAPCHILD project to cover the rest of the member States;

(b) Processing the Arabization of medical education;

(c) Strengthening the WHO publication programmes which produce standardization of medical terminology in Arabic;

(d) Updating and following up the implementation of the strategy for health development in the Arabic world;

(e) Strengthening and implementing the priority areas agreed upon in Arab strategy, especially in programmes dealing with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), essential drugs, blood transfusions, protection from radiation and environmental health.

R. World Bank

113. The World Bank's Vice-President for the Middle East and North Africa Region visited the LAS headquarters at Cairo in 1992 and held meetings with the League's Secretary-General and the Assistant-Secretary-General for Economic Affairs. It was agreed then that the World Bank and LAS would coordinate their regional activities, especially with regard to technical cooperation, but that they would need to establish a protocol. The two organizations were working towards developing constructive cooperation between them in the near future.

S. International Monetary Fund

114. The Africa Department of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) continues to be actively involved in assisting the six Arab League member countries (Algeria, Djibouti, Mauritania, Morocco, Somalia and Tunisia) covered by the Department in the elaboration and implementation of their economic and financial policies. In 1992, there were 13 staff visits to these countries for regular consultations and discussions of policies under programmes supported by Fund resources. The outstanding use of Fund resources by six Arab League States covered by the Africa Department amounted to 1.26 billion special drawing rights at the end of 1991. The Fund provides technical assistance to these countries in a number of areas, including the banking sector, financial sector reform, budgetary policies, exchange and trade systems, and statistics. Visits by non-resident experts amounted to 0.2 man-year in 1991. In addition, there were three resident experts during the year.

T. Universal Postal Union

115. The Arab Permanent Postal Commission (APPC), an organ of the League of Arab States, was established in 1992 as a Restricted Union of the Universal Postal Union within the meaning of article 8 of the Constitution of UPU. APPC is composed of the postal administrations of the countries which are members of the League of Arab States. The General Secretariat of LAS assumes the functions of the technical secretariat of APPC.

116. Following the creation of APPC, UPU began talks began with that organization with a view to having a cooperation agreement along the lines of those adopted with other Restricted Unions.

117. Some Arabic-speaking countries have established, within UPU, a language group which has installed a centralized translation service at the International Bureau. This service is directed by the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, which also performs the functions of spokesperson for the Arabic language group.

118. The following five areas have been identified as priority areas of the Arab countries for 1992-1995: restructuring of management; knowledge of the market and commercial strategies; quality of service and operational strategies; human resources and training; and acquisition of technology: buildings and postal installations. Based on these priorities, joint activities in instructor training courses and postal planning courses have been organized using UPU resources and consultants originating from Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia.

119. UPU is also financing nine integrated multi-year national projects in Arab countries to carry out various priority activities in the postal area. Moreover, the UPU Regional Adviser for the Arab countries whose office is in Cairo, has drawn up projects for the development of the postal services in some 10 countries. These projects are to be financed jointly by the recipient countries themselves, by UNDP or through other sources of financing.

120. UPU is currently acting as the executing agency for the following UNDP national projects: electronic mail in Egypt; training and modernization of

postal services in Qatar; development of postal and financial services in Yemen; support for the quality and improvement of the postal service management in Tunisia; and improvement of the postal service management in Oman.

121. From 1990 to 1992, 14 postal administrations of member countries of LAS were visited by UPU consultants in connection with the quality of postal service. The programme for 1993 includes visits to five administrations. In 1992, 11 postal administrations of member countries of LAS took part in quality control operations relating to 68 postal links, organized by the International Bureau.

U. World Meteorological Organization

122. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has continued to grant, under its regular budget and its voluntary cooperation programme, short-term and long-term fellowships to a number of Arab States. Data processing and equipment for maintenance facilities have also been provided to some countries under the WMO voluntary cooperation programme. Fellowships are being offered by some Arab States under this programme. Since three of the 17 WMO regional meteorological training centres are located in the Arab region, WMO has continued to monitor the relevant activities with the main purpose of ensuring high standard of performance.

123. Technical assistance projects funded through UNDP for the development of the national meteorological and hydrological services continue to be in Algeria, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen. A second phase of the project for the operation and maintenance of the Central Forecasting Office in the United Arab Emirates was recently signed by that Government and UNDP. Trust Fund projects are also being implemented in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and the Sudan.

124. Under the project "Global Monitoring of Greenhouse Gases including Ozone", financed through the Global Environment Facility (GEF), several observation stations will be established in developing countries, including one Arab State.

125. While WMO recognizes that in the post-UNCED era execution of operational activities for development at the national level is a leading principle concerning projects to implement Agenda 21 and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, WMO also gives due consideration to possible significant value added services and cost savings under regional projects. In this regard, mention may be made of the African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) which is contributing to the social and economic development of the Arab countries in Africa, as well as of the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE), which is aimed at combating environmental problems and at promoting sustainable development of the countries concerned.

126. Enhanced coordination between the WMO and the Permanent Meteorological Committee of the League of Arab States would be particularly beneficial to regional/subregional projects in matters related to weather monitoring and prediction, pollution monitoring, land degradation, water resources management and quality control.

V. International Maritime Organization

127. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) undertook the following activities during 1992 in cooperation with LAS member countries:

Algeria (ALG/89/001)

128. Under the project "Specialized Training of Seafarers and Technical shore-based Personnel", training aids and equipment were provided to the Institut supérieur d'études maritimes de Bou-Ismail (Algeria), for conducting IMO model courses.

Yemen (YEM/92/024)

129. The Government of Yemen, sponsor of the "Maritime Training" project, supplied training aids and equipment. A staff training programme was initiated, including IMO model courses, for the training of trainers and maritime personnel.

130. In conjunction with the Government of Yemen, IMO has been able to secure additional bilateral and regional resources for equipment and the conducting of further training courses.

Morocco (MOR/89/001)

131. Under the Government-executed project "Training of Trainers", the Moroccan Government and UNDP awarded IMO a subcontract to implement the IMO model course on Maritime Search and Rescue - Administrator at the Institut supérieur d'études maritimes, a branch of the World Maritime University. The course was conducted on a regional basis with participants from Tunisia.

Regional activities

Regional training at the Arab Maritime Transport Academy, Sharjah (RAB/88/010)

132. The Arab Maritime Transport Academy (AMTA) Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, has closed down following a decision of the Arab Ministers for Transport and Communications which recognized the Arab Maritime Transport Academy of Alexandria, Egypt, as the only Regional Arab Maritime Academy for Arab States. The transfer of training equipment from Sharjah to Alexandria has been completed.

Assistance to the Association of African Maritime Training Institutes (RAB/86/023)

133. Project activities carried out in 1991 included the finalization of the draft common guidelines on a harmonized system of education, examination and certification; fact-finding tours to the Association of African Maritime Training Institutes (AAMTI) institutes to assess development needs and TCDC potential, as well as to establish a common database system introduction on a regional basis of IMO model courses. An IMO/AAMTI Congress was held on 25 and 26 November 1991 with all AAMTI members, with a view to elaborating a

plan of action for the implementation of a harmonized system of education, examination and certification.

W. World Intellectual Property Organization

Industry property

134. In the field of industrial property, the World Industrial Property Organization (WIPO) executed several regional UNDP-financed projects with the objective of strengthening the basis of the technological development of the Arab countries, through the enforcement of the industrial property system and the promotion of its effective use. One of the projects was aimed at the establishment of an appropriate infrastructure for the collection, analysis and dissemination of technological information to the widest possible range of users in industry and in research and development institutions.

135. In cooperation with the Governments concerned, WIPO has organized training courses, regional and national seminars, as well as other meetings in the Arab region.

136. In July 1992, a regional training course on the Role of Industrial Property in Development in the Arab countries was organized by WIPO at Cairo, in cooperation with the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) of Egypt and with the assistance of UNDP. A total of 24 participants from 11 countries were present.

137. Expert missions visited the region on a regular basis and WIPO advised some of the Arab countries on the revision and updating of their industrial property legislation. WIPO also assisted the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in the formulation of a uniform patent law for the States concerned and proposed the necessary implementing regulations.

X. International Fund for Agricultural Development

138. The operations of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in the Arab world commenced in 1979. To date, 58 projects at a total cost of US$ 3.358 billion have been financed, with IFAD commitment amounting to US$ 642,000 million.

139. The activities of the Fund stem from increasing concerns about the ever widening gap in food security in the Arab world owing to limited natural resources, coupled with a rapid increase in population. The current Arab world annual food imports of about US$ 20 billion is estimated to reach US$ 30 billion by the turn of the century.

140. The bulk of IFAD projects are lodged in rainfed subsectors, where 80 per cent of staple food is produced and where the great majority of the small disadvantaged farmers reside.

141. Working within the traditional and cultural realities prevailing in the Arab world, all IFAD projects in the region are designed with specific measures

addressed to rural women, with due consideration given their roles as housewives, farm labourers and heads of rural households.

142. In addition to direct project financing, IFAD has been giving financial support in the amount of US$ 50.6 million to regional institutions in the Arab world established to promote research and training, such as ACSAD, ICARDA and AOAD.

143. A cooperation agreement between the League of Arab States and IFAD is currently being finalized.

Y. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

144. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) has continued to cooperate with the League of Arab States, as in the previous years, by providing technical assistance to the member countries of LAS, as appropriate, in the context of normal GATT activities and/or the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. GATT has also been providing opportunities for training facilities in its trade policy courses to officials from member States of LAS.

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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

GENERAL MEETING ON COOPERATION BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SECRETARIATS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES AND ITS SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATIONS

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/12 of 29 October 1992, a general meeting on cooperation between the representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations system and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States (LAS) and its specialized organizations was held at Geneva on 30 and 31 August 1993 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the first general meeting of cooperation between the two organizations. It was preceded by a meeting of experts on 26 and 27 August 1993.

Background of cooperation

2. Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States has existed since 1 November 1950 when the General Assembly, in its resolution 477 (V), requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to invite the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States to attend sessions of the Assembly as an observer.

3. Furthermore, an exchange of letters between the United Nations Secretariat and the secretariat of the League of Arab States in December 1960 resulted in an agreement on a memorandum setting out guidelines for cooperation in the following fields: mutual consultations; joint action; exchange of information and documentation; representation; and liaison.

4. Following the agreement in 1960, the Secretary-General of LAS instituted a machinery to ensure liaison between the two organizations for the implementation of agreed plans of cooperation under the supervision and coordination of the Political Department of the League, with the participation of other departments and specialized organizations concerned.

5. The present cooperation between the United Nations and LAS was instituted by General Assembly resolution 36/24 of 9 November 1981 which, inter alia, reaffirmed its resolution 477 (V) and decided to invite LAS to participate in the sessions and the work of the Assembly and of its subsidiary organs as an observer; recognized the importance of continued close association by the United Nations and the specialized agencies, where appropriate, with the efforts of the League in order to promote social and economic development and to advance intra-Arab as well as international cooperation in that vital field; and requested the Secretary-General to continue to take the necessary measures to strengthen cooperation at the political, economic, cultural and administrative levels between the United Nations and LAS.

6. The first meeting between representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and those of the General Secretariat of LAS and its specialized organizations, held at Tunis from 28 June to 1 July 1983, was endorsed by General Assembly resolution 37/17 of 16 November 1982. The Tunis meeting set forth the basic strategy for cooperation between the two organizations by adopting a large number of proposals and recommendations which were both bilateral and multilateral in nature. Two more general meetings were held at Geneva in 1988 and 1990 to review the progress of their cooperation and to augment follow-up action. The 1990 meeting decided to establish six sectoral areas for cooperation between the two organizations: international peace and security; food and agriculture; labour, trade, industry and environment; social affairs; education, science, culture and information; and communications.

7. There were also sectoral meetings which focused on priority areas of cooperation.

8. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 43/3 of 17 October 1988, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of LAS signed a new agreement of cooperation between the two organizations on 6 October 1989. The agreement came into force upon its signature. The agreement provides for the two organizations to strive for active cooperation in their respective programmes on matters of common interest. The provision on cooperation includes consultations, exchange of information, mutual representation, liaison and joint programmes.

9. In addition to the agreement of cooperation between the United Nations and LAS, a number of agreements on cooperation were entered into between the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations. Such agreements have been concluded with the following United Nations organizations and specialized agencies: the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1957, 1961 and 1963; the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 1958 and 1976; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 1959, 1972, 1974 and 1981; the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in 1960, 1974 and 1985; the World Health

Organization (WHO) in 1961; the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1971; the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1972, 1978 and 1982; the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 1974; the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in 1974; the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 1976 and 1984; the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in 1977 and 1980; the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1979 and 1980; the International Trade Centre (ITC)-UNCTAD/General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1980; the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in 1980 and 1981; and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in 1981.

10. The Secretary-General of LAS attended the General Assembly sessions and held discussions with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

11. Consultations between the two organizations have been facilitated by the establishment of an office in New York in 1948 and at Geneva in 1975, and the appointment of observers at the level of Ambassador. The appointment of Permanent Observers has allowed the League to participate actively in major meetings of the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations bodies. In addition, LAS and its specialized organizations have been represented regularly at other meetings of organizations and agencies of the United Nations system which, in turn, have participated in meetings organized by the League and its specialized organizations.

II. PREPARATORY ARRANGEMENTS

12. Following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 47/12, arrangements were made within the United Nations system for the text of the resolution to be brought to the attention of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system which had been asked to provide information on the present level of cooperation with LAS and to suggest ways and means to further strengthen and expand cooperation between the two organizations. In order to coordinate their efforts, LAS arranged for the relevant departments of the League and its specialized organizations to refer to resolution 47/12 in reporting on the various aspects of cooperation concerning them, including proposals for enhancing cooperation.

13. The substantive preparations for the general meeting were initiated by the coordinating secretariats of the two organizations. Several meetings were held between representatives of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of LAS, followed by consultations with representatives of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, to finalize arrangements for the organization, the agenda, programme of work and documentation of the general meeting.

14. Following further consultations between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of LAS, it was agreed that the tenth anniversary meeting would be held at the level of Under-Secretaries-General and Executive Heads of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and of the League of Arab States. The meeting would take place at the Palais des Nations at Geneva on 30 and 31 August 1993, to be preceded by a meeting of

experts on 26 and 27 August, in order to consider the agenda items as well as to finalize the report to be adopted by the anniversary meeting.

III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

15. As agreed upon the general meeting in commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the first general meeting of cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States was held at Geneva on 30 and 31 August 1993. It was preceded by a meeting of experts on 26 and 27 August.

16. The meeting had before it the following working papers compiled by the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, based on the contributions presented by the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system as well as by the General Secretariat of LAS and its specialized organizations:

(a) Background note and working papers on existing cooperation, submitted by the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations;

(b) Proposals to strengthening and expanding cooperation, submitted by the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations;

(c) Working paper on "An Agenda for Peace" prepared by the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations and by the Department of International Political Affairs, League of Arab States.

17. The meetings were presided over jointly by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs of the United Nations, representing the Secretary-General of the Organization, and the Under-Secretary-General for International Political Affairs of the League of Arab States, representing the Secretary-General of LAS.

18. All meetings were held in plenary session. The main substantive items on the agenda were considered by the meeting of experts. Proposals emanating from the discussions as well as those contained in the working paper were referred to an ad hoc working group composed of representatives of the departments, organizations and agencies concerned, with a view to formulating workable recommendations to be incorporated in the report.

19. The agenda of the meeting which was adopted at the opening of the session consisted of the following items:

(a) Formal opening of the meeting

(i) Statement by the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

(ii) Statement by the representative of the Secretary-General of LAS

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(c) Statements by the heads of organizations and agencies

(d) Review and appraisal of the progress of cooperation during the last 10 years

(e) Consideration of proposals to further strengthen and expand cooperation for the next decade

(f) Development of mechanisms for enhancing cooperation

(g) Consideration of proposals contained in the Secretary-General's report on An Agenda for Peace, particularly those aspects relating to regional arrangements and organizations

(h) Adoption of the report

(i) Other matters

(j) Closing of the meeting.

20. Representatives of the following departments of the United Nations and other organizations and agencies of the United Nations system participated in the meeting: Department of Political Affairs; Department for Development Support and Management Services; Department of Humanitarian Affairs; United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA); United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat); Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); International Labour Organization (ILO); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO); World Health Organization (WHO); International Monetary Fund (IMF); International Telecommunication Union (ITU); World Meteorological Organization (WMO); and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

21. Representatives of the following departments and offices of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations and other Arab organizations participated in the meeting: Department of International Political Affairs; Department of Social Affairs; Economic Department; General Secretariat of the League of Arab States; Office of the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations in Geneva; Health and Environment Service; Arab Interior Ministers Council; Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO); Arab Labour Organization (ALO); Arab Monetary Fund (AMF); Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa; International Fund for Agricultural Development; Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD); Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO); Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC); Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development (AAAID); Arab Maritime Transport Academy (AMTA); Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD); and Arab Organization for Atomic Energy.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

22. In the course of their deliberations, the representatives of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and of LAS and its specialized organizations undertook critical review and appraisal of the progress of cooperation during the last 10 years. They shared the view that the United Nations and LAS are important partners in formulating and implementing projects and activities for the promotion of peace and security and economic development in the Arab countries. Mindful of the need to further consolidate the existing cooperation between the United Nations and LAS and to strengthen and expand it during the next decade in the political, economic, social, humanitarian, cultural and administrative areas, as called for by General Assembly resolution 47/12, the meeting agreed on the following:

(a) The United Nations and LAS should be guided by the priority areas established by the meeting, as a basis for cooperation between the two systems, with a view to developing a concerted approach to the formulation of joint projects and programmes;

(b) Lead agencies and focal points in each priority area have to be designated for follow-up action with respect to conclusions and recommendations agreed upon by the meetings of the two organizations and for the purpose of sectoral coordination;

(c) Specialized organizations of LAS will be used as sources of expertise and as executing agencies in their field of specialization for the implementation of projects and programmes on cooperation proposed by the United Nations specialized agencies for the Arab countries at the regional and country levels. Where activities fall within the purview of more than one United Nations or LAS organization, a special working group of such organizations should be formed for this purpose;

(d) All United Nations agencies concerned that have not yet signed cooperation agreements with LAS should be encouraged to do so;

(e) LAS should explore possibilities of having United Nations agencies based in Cairo accredited as liaison offices to the LAS General Secretariat in order to strengthen cooperation with the organizations and agencies concerned;

(f) ECA and ESCWA are, in effect, the regional economic commissions of the Arab countries. LAS should actively involve ECA and ESCWA in the work of its technical commissions and utilize to the fullest the expertise available at ECA and ESCWA;

(g) The Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, for its part, is to give UNDP, and ECA and ESCWA, as the regional commissions, the more active role in the cooperation between the two organizations;

(h) LAS should encourage exchange of visits between the headquarters staff of lead agencies within the United Nations system and LAS counterparts for follow-up action relating to the implementation of recommendations;

(i) With regard to socio-economic projects envisaged by LAS, the League should explore with the United Nations organizations and agencies concerned the possibility of seconding Arab experts to assist LAS in the preparation of studies and papers;

(j) LAS could also explore the possibility of having technical staff seconded to United Nations agencies concerned for training and orientation;

(k) The Department of Political Affairs is in a position to arrange for LAS senior staff visiting United Nations Headquarters to meet with senior officials from the United Nations Secretariat, as well as from UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and ECA. Senior staff from LAS should also maintain regular contacts with organizations and agencies concerned in Geneva, Vienna, Rome, Paris, Nairobi and Addis Ababa.

23. The meeting agreed to the establishment of standing sectoral committees representing LAS and its specialized organizations and the United Nations and its specialized agencies, which will meet on an annual basis to review and monitor the implementation of mutual agreements and the progress of work of joint activities and to identify new areas of cooperation.

24. The meeting, having recognized the importance of continued cooperation between the two organizations in order to promote social and economic development in the Arab region and to cultivate regional understanding aimed at securing the maintenance of peace, agreed on the following.

A. International peace and security

25. The meeting expressed support for the establishment of international peace and security, with a view to ensuring progress for all peoples and countries of the world. It reiterated calls for full compliance with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations as well as with the Organization's resolutions relating to the maintenance of international peace and security.

26. The meeting expressed the hope that this cooperation would contribute in every way possible towards the implementation of the United Nations resolutions concerning the Palestinian question and the Middle East problem, and of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 with respect to southern Lebanon.

27. In addition, the League of Arab States affirms its commitment to support the United Nations in fulfilling its duties under the Charter with regard to ensuring peace and security and to promoting freedom, sovereignty, progress and prosperity for all peoples.

Agenda for Peace

28. The meeting considered the item on the Secretary-General's report, "An Agenda for Peace", in particular the chapter concerning cooperation with regional arrangements and organizations. After an exchange of views, the meeting concluded that the Agenda for Peace contained many positive elements. It also took note of the fact that both the Security Council and the General Assembly are considering proposals for adoption in implementation of the Agenda

for Peace. In the view of LAS, the United Nations must uphold the sanctity of the Charter of the United Nations, avoid double standards and pursue a balanced position based on the principle of justice in order to maintain its universal role of neutrality. LAS is waiting for the comments of its States members to formulate its position on the Agenda for Peace.

Disarmament

29. The League of Arab States believes that disarmament in general and regional disarmament in particular, which will free much needed human and material resources for development, are of fundamental importance for the achievement of international peace and security.

30. The meeting believed that a comprehensive approach to disarmament that would cover all States as well as weapons of mass destruction, was the only feasible and effective means to achieving such an important goal. The meeting also drew attention to the relevant General Assembly resolution which called for making the Middle East a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction without exception, including nuclear weapons.

31. The Arab States affirm their readiness to associate themselves with all proposals relating to disarmament that are conducive to the achievement of quantitative and qualitative parity in terms of military capability among the States of the region, applying one standard to all of them. They also affirm their readiness, in accordance with resolutions 5232 and 5285 of the LAS Council, to cooperate on the basis of the Convention on the Prohibition on the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, for the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction, provided that Israel responds to international requests to ratify the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and place its nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards in accordance with Security Council resolution 487 (1981) of 19 June 1981, since Israel's possession of nuclear weapons and its refusal to accept supervision is a stumbling block to the elimination of weapons of mass destruction from the region and to the establishment of peace and security therein.

Racial discrimination and human rights

32. The League of Arab States considers that the role of the United Nations in countering racial discrimination everywhere should be strengthened. The League reiterated support for the Organization's ongoing efforts for the total elimination of racial discrimination. LAS fully supports the efforts of the United Nations towards the promotion of human rights in the world. It called upon all parties concerned to cooperate in the process leading to a democratic, non-racial South Africa as called for by relevant United Nations resolutions.

Question of Palestine and the Middle East problem

33. The Palestinian question is at the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict and ranks first among the concerns of the League of Arab States. LAS has called on the international community and, in particular, on the States that are permanent members of the Security Council, to apply the norms of the Charter of the United Nations with a view to implementing the resolutions embodying international

legitimacy and the commitment of all States, without exception, to the implementation of United Nations resolutions. This will contribute to the success of the peace talks that are being conducted in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973 and will lead to the establishment of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

34. The meeting considered that international efforts should be stepped up to implement Security Council resolution 425 (1978), which calls for a withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon. This would contribute to the promotion of the ongoing peace efforts.

B. Economic, financial and technical cooperation for development

35. The last decade has witnessed a growing cooperation between LAS and the United Nations in various fields of activities that have contributed to economic and social development in the Arab region, as well as to environmental protection. The activities and programmes carried out within the framework of this cooperation are outlined in the annual reports of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

36. Although considerable activities have been undertaken jointly by the United Nations system and LAS and its specialized organizations, there is need and certainly room for enhancing cooperation between the two organizations. The meeting felt that cooperation would be strengthened if the two organizations could address the following factors which have hindered the progress of cooperation:

(a) Lack of adequate financial resources;

(b) Absence of a well-defined mechanism for the exercise and monitoring of cooperation;

(c) Lengthy processing of project requests;

(d) Following different sets of priorities;

(e) Absence of focal points, in many cases, for coordinating and following up joint activities.

37. With regard to future cooperation between the United Nations and LAS, it is felt that regular consultations on issues of concern to the Arab region should be systematized. LAS and its specialized organizations should be involved, to the extent possible, in the preparation of regional reports for various regional and international development conferences.

38. The highest priorities should be given to the following issues:

(a) Human development;

(b) Transfer and acquisition of appropriate technology;

(c) Food security and nutrition;

(d) Enhanced regional and interregional cooperation;

(e) Economic restructuring and investment promotion;

(f) Trade, transport and communications;

(g) Sustainable development, including environmental protection, and conservation of natural resources;

(h) Development and conservation of water resources;

(i) Direct assistance to the Arab least developed countries and the Palestinian people in the Occupied Territories;

(j) Information management.

39. The attainment of such priorities will lead to a long-term programme of technical assistance by the United Nations system on a regional level whereby LAS and its specialized organizations can be active partners from the initial stage of programme identification and formulation, to the final stage of implementation and follow-up.

40. Cooperation between the United Nations system and the LAS system should serve as a framework to mobilize efforts and resources of all organizations concerned to develop policies, programmes and projects in the economic, financial and technical cooperation activities for the development of the Arab region.

UNDP and LAS

41. It is recommended that LAS and Arab specialized organizations should participate in Steering Committee meetings on regional projects according to their sectoral specialization, regardless of whether or not the United Nations and LAS co-fund the projects. By participating in the Steering Committees, LAS and/or Arab specialized organizations are likely to reflect the Arab development perspective and make technical contributions based on their knowledge of the region and the sectors which the projects support.

Industry

42. In view of the positive outcome of the last decade of cooperation between UNIDO and AIDMO, more efforts should be made towards building on the successful experiences as well as working out innovative programmes and mechanisms with a view to responding to the needs of industrial development in the Arab region.

43. In addition to the priority areas which have been identified by UNIDO and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations under the Special Programme for Industrial Development in the Arab Countries, particular emphasis must be placed on the following matters:

(a) Attainment of sustainable industrial development through the protection of environment, more specifically, transfer of clean-air technology, waste management, recycling, management and training, as well as the implementation of the Montreal protocol, and utilization of energy and energy conservation, use of new and renewable sources of energy in non-oil producing countries;

(b) Promotion of investment activities through closer cooperation between the Arab investors and Arab-foreign joint investment activities;

(c) Examination and assessment of the roles of private and public sectors with the aim of reforming structures, attaining maximum efficiency and securing the widest possible participation of all agencies in economic activities;

(d) Development of a programme with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) in the field of agro-industries, aimed at replacing drug production by other crops on the basis of techno-economic assessment and prevailing conditions involving training, selection of equipment and adequate technologies.

44. More attention should be given to the organizational arrangements under the Special Programme (under the auspices of UNIDO), with a view to involving the active participation of AIDMO in the planning and financing of the regional industrial activities. This may require mobilization of Arab and international resources for furthering the process of cooperation between UNIDO and LAS to implement the policies on joint industrial activities in the Arab countries, new modalities of financing the projects have to be worked out, including cost-sharing and trust fund arrangements; UNIDO has had experience in this area.

45. UNIDO, ESCWA, LAS and AIDMO are invited to increase allocations for the Special Programme for Industrial Development in the Arab countries.

46. UNIDO and ECA are requested to cooperate with AIDMO in the planning and implementation of industrial development programmes with regard to the Arab countries in Africa.

47. ECA is invited to join the collaborating organizations of the Special Programme and to contribute to its implementation.

48. UNIDO and ECA are invited to cooperate with ALO in the following spheres of common interest:

(a) Development of human resources, particularly in small-scale industries;

(b) Participation in meetings and seminars dealing with training of manpower;

(c) Exchange of publications and documents relating to human resources development.

C. Natural resources and environment

49. The United Nations and LAS exchanged information on studies, seminars and meetings concerning the environment or natural resources. The following were involved: the Department for Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations Secretariat, UNDP, UNEP, ECA, ESCWA, FAO, WMO, IFAD, the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, AOAD, ACSAD, ALECSO, AAAID and OAPEC.

50. The United Nations agencies are requested to keep the Arab League informed about the programmes they operate in the Arab countries in the areas of environment and natural resources so as to enable the Arab organizations to study and determine the extent of their participation in those programmes.

51. In this area of cooperation, the following should be noted:

(a) Priority should be given to prevention of desertification, increase in planted areas, reduction and treatment of industrial waste, propagation of environmental awareness and education. This will involve UNDP, UNEP, ECA, ESCWA, FAO, WMO, IFAD, ACSAD, AOAD, ALECSO, and AAAID;

(b) The Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab region will undertake two major activities:

(i) The establishment of an environmental information network;

(ii) The holding of a Pan-Arab Ministerial Conference on sustainable agricultural and rural development in the Arab region with the participation of the League of Arab States and the United Nations agencies concerned as decided by the Joint Committee on Environment and Development;

(c) OAPEC will invite, on behalf of LAS and other co-sponsoring organizations, relevant United Nations organizations such as the Department of Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations Secretariat, UNCTAD, UNDP, ECA, ESCWA, UNIDO, and other agencies to attend the Fifth Arab Energy Conference to be held at Cairo in May 1994.

D. Food and agriculture

52. The meeting agreed that cooperation between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations concerning the promotion of food and agriculture in the Arab countries should continue to be strengthened along the following lines:

(a) Annual consultative meetings between FAO, AOAD and ACSAD should be held before setting annual programmes and activities, with a view to promoting and enhancing cooperation, avoiding duplication of activities and ensuring harmonious implementation of programmes;

(b) FAO, AOAD and ACSAD are encouraged to participate in the implementation of joint activities and field missions as co-partners;

(c) AOAD, ACSAD and AAAID are urged to participate regularly in the Regional Technical Commissions of FAO, such as the Regional Commission on Agriculture, the Regional Economic and Social Policy Commission, the Regional London Water Commission;

(d) LAS, AOAD and ACSAD are urged to actively participate in the existing regional task forces established by FAO as forums for regional cooperation;

(e) Arab specialized organizations should be used in the field of agriculture as executing agencies of UNDP-funded projects in the Arab region;

(f) AAAID and IFAD are willing to review proposals that are compatible with their mandate and which are specifically aimed at food production, alleviation of rural poverty, protection of the environment and enhancement of the social and economic status of rural women;

(g) UNEP is urged to strengthen its regional office in Cairo to enhance cooperation with LAS in the field of environment;

(h) The Economic Commission for Africa, which serves nine Arab States and which is similar to ESCWA, should be invited to participate in the joint meetings of the United Nations and LAS in the future;

(i) AOAD and FAO have already identified the following projects for joint implementation:

(i) National Resources Inventory through standardized geo-referenced database for sustainable agricultural development, planning and environmental construction;

(ii) Green belt projects for desertification control in Arab countries;

(j) AOAD will contribute to, and participate in, preparations for a policy framework and regional programme of action for women in the region developed by the FAO Regional Office for the Near East;

(k) AOAD and ITC identified project Regional Market News Service for Arab States for joint implementation;

(l) AOAD proposes the implementation of the following projects jointly with United Nations agencies:

(i) Policies for exploiting the potential of barley production, utilization and trade in the Middle East and North Africa;

(ii) Strengthening capacity of small farmers in the Arab region;

(iii) Development of fisheries resources;

(iv) Development of irrigated agricultural sector in the Arab region;

(v) Establishment of measures to curb loss in food and agricultural production;

(vi) Strengthening of agricultural institutions;

(vii) Transfer of technology in the field of agriculture;

(viii) Effect of economic adjustments on small farmers and rural poverty;

(ix) Development of storage technology (use of radiation);

(x) Utilization of agricultural by-products;

(xi) Protection of olive and citrus trees in the Arab region;

(m) ACSAD proposes cooperation with relevant organizations of the United Nations system in the formulation and implementation of the following activities of common interest to them:

Field of cooperation	United Nations organizations concerned
Survey of regional water resources and coordination in the field of water resources	Department for Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations Secretariat, UNDP, ECA, ESCWA, FAO, WMO
Desertification and drought control, expansion of green belts in the Arab States, and management and reclamation of degraded land	UNDP, UNEP, ECA, ESCWA, FAO, WMO
Land reclamation and water resources management	UNDP, ECA, ESCWA, FAO, WMO, UNIDO
Applied research programmes and development of regional agricultural systems in arid regions and dry lands	UNDP, ECA, ESCWA, FAO, WMO, IFAD
Organization and holding of seminars and conferences and training courses in areas of common interest	UNDP, FAO, WMO, WIPO, UNIDO
Environmental protection, particularly in arid and semi-arid areas	UNDP, UNEP, ECA, ESCWA, FAO, WMO, UNIDO, World Conservation Union (IUCN)
Support and follow-up on the implementation of programmes for the study of camels	FAO, IFAD
Development of small ruminants	FAO

Field of cooperation	United Nations organizations concerned
Support for the Arab water security programme	UNDP, FAO, UNESCO, WMO, UNIDO
Support and funding for the aridity monitoring programme and preparation of a strategy for coping with the programme in the Arab world	UNDP, WMO, UNIDO
Protection and development of marginal pastoral areas in the Arab world	UNDP, FAO, IFAD
Protection of Arab biological diversity and use of same in the development and protection of Arab environments	UNDP, FAO, UNIDO, IUCN, International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR)
Collection, preservation and evaluation of plant genetic resources in the Arab world and use of those resources for the development of Arab agriculture	FAO, IBPGR
Propagation and dissemination of improved strains of wheat and barley which are resistant to drought and salinity in the Arab world	UNDP, FAO

E. Transport and communications

Arab Maritime Transport Academy

53. It is to be noted that most of the recommendations adopted by the first general meeting of cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States, held at Tunis in 1983, particularly those relating to maritime education and training, have been followed up over the past years. However, there remains a need for the International Maritime Organization and for other organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, such as UNDP, UNCTAD and ILO, to supply essential advice, expertise and financial support in order to provide assistance in the following fields, while using the expertise available to the Arab Maritime Transport Academy (AMTA):

(a) Technical assistance in the use and formulation of national maritime legislation;

(b) Completion of the establishment of national administrations for maritime safety in the Arab countries;

(c) Formulation of national and regional programmes and arrangements relating to the prevention of pollution;

(d) Continued preparation and implementation of national and regional programmes for the training of personnel in maritime transport operations and other maritime activities;

(e) Translation into Arabic of the International Maritime Organization model training programme;

(f) Expanded use of the capacities of the International Maritime Academy in the training of high-level staff in maritime transport operations and activities.

54. For the attainment of the aforementioned objectives, there is need to strengthen cooperation between LAS and the various United Nations specialized agencies, particularly IMO. Such a measure may take the following forms:

(a) Conclusion of a cooperation agreement with IMO;

(b) Designation of a permanent representative of the Arab Maritime Transport Academy to be stationed at IMO in London to coordinate cooperation activities between the Arab countries and IMO;

(c) Participation of each of the organizations in the meetings of the other;

(d) Exchange of information and documentation on all matters of common interest;

(e) Participation in the organization and sponsorship of study and training courses, particularly in the fields of safety and the prevention of pollution;

(f) Invitation to ILO, UNCTAD and UNDP to provide, within their respective fields of competence, the necessary expertise and financial support for training at the professional and administrative levels;

(g) Establishment of an international centre for the implementation of projects.

55. The achievements of AMTA on the international, regional and national levels require that it be supported at all levels to enable it to function as a major centre for all the cooperation procedures between the United Nations and LAS. AMTA should be entrusted with the development of advanced studies and the implementation of follow-up procedures.

Cooperation with the International Telecommunication Union

56. The meeting also invited the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the technical secretariat of LAS to continue cooperation in developing the telecommunication system in the Arab region, especially the MODARABTEL networks,

and adopt the following mechanisms of cooperation and coordination in carrying out their activities:

(a) Reciprocal consultations on the preparation of their respective activity plans and projects;

(b) Organization, whenever possible, of joint regional seminars and training courses;

(c) Organization of coordination meetings every six months;

(d) Exchange of invitations to attend each other's meetings;

(e) Designation of a focal point for each side to facilitate direct and instant contact and coordination of work.

Civil aviation

57. The United Nations and LAS and their specialized agencies and organizations, especially ICAO and the Arab Civil Aviation Commission, are encouraged to cooperate in the following areas:

(a) Development of air transport database for the Arab region;

(b) Training of civil aviation personnel;

(c) Development of regional technical cooperation projects in the civil aviation field;

(d) Joint action on the implementation of air navigation facilities and services;

(e) Exchange of information and documentation;

(f) Exchange of invitations to relevant meetings.

Postal services

58. The United Nations and LAS and their specialized agencies and organizations especially the Universal Postal Union (UPU), are encouraged to cooperate in the following areas:

(a) Exchange of information and documentation;

(b) Technical assistance to the Arab Permanent Postal Committee;

(c) Exchange of information related to the development of postal sectors in the Arab region.

F. Trade and development

59. Economic cooperation in developing countries is of great importance in both the development of the Arab States and the health of the world economy. In view thereof, LAS and UNCTAD and the appropriate regional economic commissions should cooperate along the following lines:

(a) Extend assistance to the Arab integration process;

(b) Study and offer solutions to particular problems of integration, such as loss of fiscal revenues, rules of origin, problems of trade liberalization, and customs harmonization;

(c) Bring to the integration process the comparative experience of other developing regions and promote interregional cooperation;

(d) Extend technical assistance in the above areas with the help of funding organizations such as UNDP. All such projects would be elaborated and implemented in consultation with LAS.

60. Both the United Nations and LAS, with their specialized agencies and organizations, particularly UNCTAD, UNDP, ECA, ESCWA, GATT and ITC are encouraged to continue cooperation especially in the following areas:

(a) Building of an Arab trade information network to be brought into operation at the regional level among the Arab States;

(b) Development of human resources in the field of trade, and organization of training courses;

(c) Provision of technical assistance;

(d) Implementation of trade and trade policies, in particular reform of trade policies, and promotion of exports and multilateral trade negotiations;

(e) Support for national and regional trade financing;

(f) Increase of assistance to the Palestinian people in the Occupied Territories for economic development and restructuring and to formulate more projects in view of the study to be undertaken by UNCTAD.

G. Atomic energy

61. The meeting expressed appreciation for the activities undertaken by the Arab Atomic Energy Agency (AAEA) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in various fields of cooperation.

Projects dealing with water deficiency

62. The Arab world falls in a region characterized by its water deficiency. Projects dealing with the study and evaluation of underground water, as for example, quantity, age, rechargeability, etc., using nuclear techniques, are vital to the region. IAEA has been working with some of the Arab countries along these lines. It is recommended, however, that these activities should be intensified through closer cooperation between IAEA and AAEA.

63. An activity which has to be developed and sustained in the next 10 years is the utilization of desalination-using small- and medium-sized reactors as a means of securing potable water in amounts sufficient for public use. The meeting expressed appreciation for the combined role of IAEA and AAEA in this field of activity.

Projects dealing with power deficiency

64. Many of the Arab countries suffer from poor energy resources. Generation of electric power by the Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) can be one viable means of overcoming the energy deficiency. Work along these lines could be introduced and maintained under IAEA sponsorship and through a more active cooperation between IAEA and AAEA.

Projects dealing with improving plant and animal production

65. The meeting strongly requested that:

(a) Regional cooperation in developing mutations, soil fertility, animal productivity and other similar fields be implemented further and maintained on a regional level;

(b) IAEA and AAEA cooperate in operating an environmental radioactivity-monitoring network to be attached at a later stage to the global environmental radioactivity-monitoring network;

(c) The two organizations cooperate in training and manpower development in the different fields of peaceful applications of atomic energy.

H. Finance

66. Both the United Nations and LAS, with their specialized agencies and organizations, especially UNCTAD, UNDP, ECA, ESCWA, World Bank, IMF, ITC, AMF, Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Arab Investment Guaranty Cooperation, are encouraged to cooperate in the following areas:

(a) Deployment of sustained efforts to make use, whenever possible, of the technical and financial resources of regional and international institutions in implementing the work programmes of Arab financial institutions, with a view to securing the best international services within the framework of the programme, and to expanding and developing their activities;

(b) Development of regional capital markets and institutions;

(c) Consultations in the field of economic reforms and adjustment;

(d) Support for joint investments, especially investments that would enable the flow of technology to the region and the development of regional technological capacities;

(e) Support for monetary cooperation, including regional clearing and payment arrangements;

(f) Provision of technical assistance and training;

(g) Organization of seminars.

I. Social affairs

Population

67. Cooperation between LAS and the United Nations in this area, which has been sustained by successes already achieved, needs to be further strengthened. In 1982, a Population Research Unit (PRU) within the framework of LAS was set up, with the support of UNFPA. The second stage of PRU activities, begun in 1992, is scheduled to be completed by the end of 1996. PRU is undertaking an in-depth analysis of the output of the Pan-Arab Project for Child Development (PAPCHILD), a joint project of the United Nations and LAS dealing with maternal and child health. It is also doing a series of studies on Arab immigration and is evaluating the participation of women in economic activities. PRU is involved in several issues which will require enhanced United Nations cooperation, namely:

(a) The expansion of the activities of PAPCHILD to include education as a basic variable in the development of the Arab child. This will allow PAPCHILD to reflect more adequately the different aspects of health which should go beyond measuring physical dimensions. Further, this will enable PAPCHILD to generate in a harmonious, rational and standardized fashion, the necessary data required for the evaluation of the proposed and existing indicators for monitoring the disparate goals identified by the "Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s", adopted at the World Summit for Children held in New York in 1990. PAPCHILD needs to be strengthened, its scope of activity expanded and its life-span extended.

(b) The protection of the economic, social, cultural and humanitarian conditions of Arab immigrants in host countries;

(c) The effects of policies governing structural adjustment programmes on population conditions in the Arab countries;

(d) Cooperation between LAS and UNFPA will be further enhanced in the area of population research. Results of the study will be given wider dissemination with a view to increasing the awareness of policy planners and makers and making them more sensitive to the importance of population issues within the context of the national, social and economic development planning. More specifically, the data obtained from PAPCHILD will be disseminated and used to improve the welfare of children and women. This will, in turn, result in lowering infant and maternal mortality rates as well as in improving information and services in the mother-child-health family planning sector.

68. This area of cooperation concerns the following partners: Department for Development Support and Management Services, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, ALECSO, LAS Secretariat General for Social Affairs and the Arab Gulf Programme for United National Development Organizations.

Child development: Child Care, Protection and Development

69. UNICEF views the League of Arab States as an important partner in the Grand Alliance for Children and reaffirms its commitment to cooperate with LAS in implementing the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the World Summit for Children and in advocating the ratification and application of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the countries of the Arab nation.

70. Together with other agencies, the two organizations have worked closely over the last decade, particularly in the last five years, to promote the welfare and development of Arab children and women.

71. Both LAS and UNICEF are committed to cooperate with each other to achieve the goals stated in the Pan-Arab Plan for Child Care, Protection and Development adopted at the high-level Arab meeting for the Welfare, Protection and Development of Children, held at Tunis in November 1992, and to supporting the development and implementation of national plans of action in each country to achieve the decade's goals for children. The joint LAS/UNICEF Committee which meets twice a year, provides a forum for regular discussion of matters relating to cooperation between the two organizations. The two organizations will continue to jointly organize and participate in technical and high-level sectoral meetings on child and maternal welfare. Each has observer status on the other's relevant executive bodies.

72. As outlined below, the major goals, as well as the conceptual substance of the Pan-Arab Plan, follow closely those of the World Summit for Children. The Pan-Arab Plan is an important "umbrella" for introducing new initiatives and promising regional approaches, for mobilizing additional social and financial resources for Arab children, for realizing joint Arab actions, and is a vital framework for continuing advocacy for children and women.

73. LAS and UNICEF will work closely together to develop a fund-raising strategy for the child in the region, particularly to fund national programmes of action, and to promote the creation of an Arab Child Fund.

74. The permanent LAS/UNICEF Committee will continue to meet periodically with a view to agreeing on the following: joint provision of technical assistance, wherever such assistance is needed and requested, in connection with designing and implementing national programmes of action; review of periodic country reports to direct follow-up activities and enhance collaborative actions; sending of joint delegations to review implementation of the programmes of action to overcome obstacles, and to learn from country experiences with a view to strengthening organizational, administrative and executive capabilities at the national and local levels. The first meeting of the executive officials responsible for children in the Arab States will be convened towards the end of 1993. It will be held at the invitation of the LAS Secretariat and UNICEF, Middle East, North Africa Regional Office, with the participation of the Permanent Consultative Technical Committee on Children.

75. Within the framework of the Pan-Arab Plan for Child Care, Protection and Development, cooperation between LAS and UNICEF will centre on achieving the decade's goals specified in the Plan, the core goals of which are the following:

(a) Reduction, between 1990 and the year 2000, of infant and under-five child mortality rates by one third, or, to 50 and 70 per 1,000 live births, whichever is less;

(b) Reduction of maternal mortality rate by one half between 1990 and the year 2000;

(c) Reduction of severe and moderate malnutrition rates among children under-five by one half, between 1990 and the year 2000;

(d) Universal access to safe drinking water and to sanitary methods of excreta disposal;

(e) Universal completion of basic education by the year 2000;

(f) Elimination of adult illiteracy, with emphasis on female illiteracy, by the year 2000;

(g) Improved protection of children in especially difficult circumstances.

76. In the period 1993-1995, cooperation between UNICEF and LAS will focus on their efforts towards the achievement of the following goals by 1995:

(a) That 75 per cent of all pregnant women will receive at least two doses of tetanus toxoid and that 50 per cent of all girls will get five doses of the vaccine in order to prevent neonatal tetanus; efforts will also be directed towards the elimination of neonatal tetanus;

(b) That deaths caused by measles will be reduced by 95 per cent and measle cases by 90 per cent;

(c) That poliomyelitis will be eradicated in selected countries;

(d) That 80 per cent usage rate of oral rehydration therapy will be achieved;

(e) That the free distribution of breast-milk substitutes in the region will be halted by the end of 1993; that all major hospitals will be designated as "Baby Friendly" by 1995; that the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative will be carried out in all countries;

(f) That universal salt iodization will be realized to prevent the mental retardation and physical incapacity caused by deficiencies in this vital micronutrient, and that iodine-deficiency disorders will virtually be eliminated;

(g) That in primary education, gender disparities in enrolment will be reduced by one third (focus will be placed on increasing girls' enrolment and completion rates, and on reducing drop-outs);

(h) That the Convention on the Rights of the Child will obtain universal ratification;

(i) That access to safe drinking water sources will be increased by one third, and access to sanitary methods of excreta disposal, by 10 per cent.

77. LAS and UNICEF should give special priority to supporting the preparation, costing and financing, implementation, and monitoring of national plans of action, where appropriate.

78. Cooperation in this area will encompass support for national and regional strategy development with a view to achieving the above-mentioned goals. Particular attention will be given to the following: (a) those goals requiring intercountry cooperation as, for example, the establishment of subregional polio-free zones; (b) the most disadvantaged countries; and (c) countries where improvement in the situation of large child populations will have a major impact on the overall goal achievement rates of the Arab nation (e.g. Egypt, Morocco, the Sudan, Yemen). A UNICEF document on the strategies for female education which has been prepared by a regional consultative group, is to be published shortly.

79. To promote exchange of information and of contacts, experience, etc., UNICEF will cooperate with LAS and the Arab Council for Childhood Development on database development around the decade's goals. This activity will include joint use of the UNICEF regional DEEDS database and assessment of the feasibility of extending PAPCHILD Phase II to the education sector. It will also include electronic information processing and networking, for example, through CHILDNET and the development of indicators to assess progress towards achievement of the stated goals. UNICEF will produce supporting thematic kits on priority concerns of the Pan-Arab Plan.

80. Projects such as mobilization of partnerships, regional networks of professionals, institutions and organizations, and joint participation in technical meetings will build on ongoing activities aimed at achieving the above-mentioned goals.

81. Leading national and regional non-governmental organizations form the third and very important partner of LAS and UNICEF in cooperation activities aimed at implementing the Pan-Arab Plan. An non-governmental organization forum will be

organized at Amman in December 1993 in collaboration with LAS to develop an action plan for promoting the Convention on the Rights of the Child throughout the region. Collaboration with the Arab Scouts Organization on youth environmental awareness is already under way.

82. UNICEF and the Arab States Broadcasting Union will continue recently initiated cooperation to mobilize the media for child rights, welfare and development, to improve the educational quality of television, and to train producers, directors and writers.

83. Increasing attention will be given to the child in difficult circumstances, with particular reference to mediation for, and protection of, the child in conflict situations.

Women

84. The enhancement of the status of women and women's equal access to education, training, credit and other extension services constitute a valuable contribution to a nation's social and economic development.

85. LAS sees in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women a future framework for world-wide cooperation. LAS efforts to promote it have led to the adoption of national strategies and plans of action for the implementation and follow-up of the Nairobi strategies.

86. LAS is also actively preparing for its participation in the World Conference on Women, to be held at Beijing in 1995, which will focus on women's achievements within the framework of equality, development and peace.

87. Cooperation between LAS and the United Nations in the area of women's development concerns the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, Department for Development Support and Management Services, UNICEF, ECA, ESCWA, IFAD and the United Nations Fund for Women's Development.

Family

88. The family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children from infancy to adolescence. The introduction of children to the culture, values and means of their society begins in the family.

89. LAS is currently actively engaged in the preparation of "1994: The Year of the Family" and the Convention on the Rights of the Family to be adopted by the World Conference on the Rights of the Family, in 1994.

Youth

90. By its resolution 47/85 of 16 December 1992, the United Nations General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue the preparation of a draft world youth programme of action to the year 2000 and beyond. By its resolution 1993/24 of 27 July 1993, the United Nations Economic and Social Council adopted a resolution concerning the creation of a working group for the purpose of refining the draft programme of action.

91. Having actively participated in 1983 in preparations for the International Youth Year, at the level of the Arab region, LAS would welcome an invitation to participate in the tenth anniversary celebration of International Youth Year in 1995 and to contribute to the elaboration of the draft world youth programme of action to the Year 2000 and beyond.

Sports

92. Since sports is one indicator of the health of the nations comprising the Arab States (about 42 per cent of the populations are under 20 years of age), LAS is particularly conscious of the importance of sports and is sensitive to its requirements and demands.

93. LAS has called for United Nations cooperation through its International Governmental Committee for Physical Education and Sports (IGCPES), with a view to elaborating a joint programme aimed at achieving the goals set forth in the IGCPES World Programme, at the level of the Arab region.

Health

94. The commitment to mutual cooperation by LAS and the World Health Organization (WHO) dates back to 1961 when both organizations signed a convention to this effect. The past three decades have witnessed continued consultations and cooperation between LAS and WHO.

95. Since 1984 the collaboration between LAS and WHO has been guided by a set of recommendations and decisions defining the areas for their collaboration and joint action. These include information, education and communication for health, essential drugs and health legislation, and the Regional Arabic Programme covering health information, documentation, health literature, arabization of medical education, and standardization of medical terminology in Arabic. Technical support by WHO has also been sought in the development of an Arab strategy for health. Their establishment of joint committees, their mutual observer status representation in governing bodies, and the decision to have WHO/LAS collaboration permanently on the Agenda of the Executive Bureau of the Council of Arab Ministers of Health (CAMOH) have facilitated continuous policy and technical exchange between the two organizations, thus making possible regular monitoring and follow-up of their collaboration. In addition, coordination of, and complementarity with, the direct WHO country programmes in the Arab States have been ensured.

96. By virtue of the decentralized structure of the World Health Organization, the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean which is based in Alexandria, conducts privileged high-level policy dialogues with the League of Arab States. This facilitates collaboration between the two organizations. Furthermore, WHO representatives and WHO country offices will be able to provide support for the implementation of planned collaboration between LAS and WHO at the country level.

97. The adoption and presentation to CAMOH of the final version of the Arab Strategy for Health Development, scheduled to take place in March 1994, will be the culminating point in LAS/WHO cooperation. The signing of the document for the multi-agency PAPCHILD marked a milestone in LAS/WHO relations. WHO is

closely involved in the technical preparation and implementation of this project. In the field of blood transfusion services and in connection with the goal of attaining self-reliance in the supply of safe blood and blood products, a regional training centre was established at Amman, to assist in the training of staff working in blood transfusion services in the countries of the region.

98. Other areas of cooperation include the programme on acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), protection from radiation, formulation of a core list of essential drugs for Arab States, environmental health and occupational health and assurance of quality pharmaceutical services and products.

99. WHO works with a number of LAS organizations and divisions on health-related subjects. It cooperates with ALECSO on health education in schools, with ALO on the health of workers, and with a department of LAS on environmental hazards, water supply sanitation and waste management. Both WHO and LAS are seized with, and have joined efforts with regard to, the health situation in the Occupied Arab Territories.

100. Given the acuteness and urgency of present health needs in particular areas, LAS proposes starting up the implementation and execution of the protocol of cooperation to be elaborated with the WHO Regional Office within the framework of the "strategy adopted by WHO for the implementation of the global goal of health for all by the year 2000".

101. WHO will continue to take an active part in collaborating with the League of Arab States together with UNICEF and UNFPA, in the finalization of the proposal for the Arab Plan of Action for child survival protection and the development of health of children in the Arab world. Areas of common concern include the high rates of maternal mortality in some Arab countries, problems of drug abuse, and emergency preparedness and response. WHO will also continue to consolidate progress achieved in the arabization of medical education, in the Regional Arabic Programme and in the standardization of medical terminology in Arabic.

102. WHO and LAS will continue their close collaboration in monitoring the implementation of the Arab strategy for health development, and in strengthening and implementing the priority areas agreed upon in the Arab Strategy, especially in the AIDS prevention and control programmes, essential drugs, blood transfusion services, occupational health, protection from radiation and environmental health.

Education

103. Pursuant to the long-standing cooperation between LAS and UNESCO and another partner, ALECSO, and in conformity with the agreements of cooperation between LAS-ALECSO and UNESCO, the following priorities have been identified for the next period. In addition, existing activities will continue to be carried out.

(a) General proposals

(i) Concentration on the priorities and programmes identified by the respective organizations;

(ii) Continuation of periodic consultations between LAS-ALECSO and UNESCO through established mechanisms;

(iii) Further development of the approach to coordinated action with the corresponding follow-up action and evaluation;

(iv) Further encouragement of periodic exchange of views and visits between the heads and the staff of organizations and headquarters involved and of regional and national representatives concerned;

(v) Exploration of the possibility of extended technical services without substantive cost to cooperating organizations;

(vi) Reinforcement of cooperation between the Arab specialized organizations (ALECSO) and UNESCO through joint implementation of projects;

(vii) Ensuring use of existing Arab expertise for the implementation of joint UNESCO/ALECSO activities inside or outside the region;

(viii) Cooperation between UNDP and UNICEF, on the one hand, and LAS and its specialized organizations, on the other, to achieve the goals adopted by the World Conference on Education for All held at Jomtien, Thailand, in 1990, and the education goals adopted at Tunis in November 1992, within the framework of the Pan-Arab Plan for Child Care, Protection and Development.

(b) Priorities for cooperation and interaction

(i) Improvement of effectiveness of basic education/literacy/post literacy/adult education and non-formal education, which will continue to represent a high-priority area of cooperation between ALECSO and UNESCO;

(ii) Provision of vocational and technical education through training activities;

(iii) Advancement of women's education;

(iv) Provision of emergency assistance in education and education for special groups (technical and advisory services for the education of refugees and displaced persons).

104. The UNESCO Regional Office for Education in the Arab States will continue to coordinate the greater part of the above activities. Intensive participation by UNESCO major networks (UNITWIN, UNEVOC, etc.) is to be considered. Distance education would be considered as one of the major tools of education.

(c) Science and environment

(i) Follow-up by LAS and UNESCO on recommendations on the Arab region by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

(ii) Implementation of the Arab Strategy on Science and Technology Policies, including:

a. Promotion of computer networks and of microcomputer software;

b. Contribution to conserving and using biological diversity (water related issues, the Man and the Biosphere programme, etc.);

c. Participation in major UNESCO pilot activities for updating engineering education and programmes;

d. Translation into Arabic of fundamentals of science progress.

(d) Culture

(i) Expansion of cooperation between LAS (ALECSO) and UNESCO within the framework of the World Decade for Cultural Development;

(ii) Participation in the UNESCO programmes for safeguarding traditional culture, including, inter alia, recording, inventorying and revitalization of cultural traditions and skills;

(iii) Placing emphasis on the reading of promotion and book development.

(e) Communication and exchange of information in this area

(i) Provision of Professional communication training;

(ii) Development of community media in rural and marginalized areas;

(iii) Increased participation in existing UNESCO informatics networks to obtain access to and exchange of information.

Labour

Issues for future cooperation between ILO, LAS and ALO

105. As the League of Arab States and its specialized agencies and ILO share a number of common interests and concerns, and given the requirements of the countries to sustain their development efforts, a programme of action between the two organizations is urgently required.

106. This programme should be a logical response to the needs that have been identified, particularly in the areas of human resources development, women and child welfare, migration and social protection of workers.

107. The programme should be elaborated by the specialized staff of the ILO, LAS and ALO, taking into consideration available resources within the two organizations, as well as other resources to be mobilized from external sources.

108. The joint programme will include the following features:

(a) Designing the data collection requirements and information systems;

(b) Studying the methodology for human resources development planning;

(c) Studying the possibilities of ensuring complementarity between human resource planning and development planning;

(d) Providing the necessary support to the design of employment, migration and vocational protection policies;

(e) Developing appropriate support to labour administration and workers education programmes;

(f) Providing support to translation (mainly into Arabic) of important methodological studies and documents.

109. The contents of the programme may include the following activities:

(a) Studying the structure and components of the labour force and the effectiveness of the labour market in the light of changing conditions and in the context of the new economic order;

(b) Analysing migration flow and labour mobility within the context of a broader Arab labour market;

(c) Studying the determinants and consequences of female participation in the labour force;

(d) Studying the role and status of women with a view to eliminating obstacles for the full participation of women and their integration into the development process;

(e) Studying the ways and means of eliminating child labour;

(f) Studying employment and unemployment problems, issues and prospects;

(g) Studying the implications of structural adjustment programmes on the population with special emphasis on the disadvantaged groups;

(h) Studying the structure and components of the informal sector and its contribution to the national economy;

(i) Designing and implementing appropriate technical cooperative projects in various areas, particularly those relating to Palestinian workers and employers;

(j) Providing continued support to the Regional Arab Programme for Labour Administration in its new phase of implementation and other institutions and programmes.

110. Mention should be made of the new Active Partnership Policy of ILO which defines future roles and modalities of ILO operations and its working relations with the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations.

111. The Active Partnership Policy is designed to bring the ILO closer to its constituents with a view to enabling the ILO to respond better to the needs of its social partners and to enhance the relevance of ILO activities. In line with this policy, ILO will strengthen its analytical capacity to diagnose problems and propose policy advice and solutions; make more effective use of its technical capacity wherever located in the office structure; act more effectively and with greater flexibility in dealing with the needs of constituents; and, finally, maintain the overall unity of the organization and reinforce central policy control over its operations.

112. In implementing this policy, it is extremely important to maintain close consultations and dialogues with the ILO constituents in the Arab region, the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, particularly ALO, and with other regional organizations such as the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions and the General Union of the Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of the Arab countries.

113. For the biennium 1994-1995, the ILO programme will be guided by three priority objectives, namely, promotion of the advancement of democracy, fight against poverty, and promotion of the protection of working people. In line with these objectives, the programme in the Arab States will particularly focus on human resources development, employment creation and poverty alleviation, promotion of the ratification and application of international labour standards, improvements in working conditions and the environment. ILO activities in the fields of labour legislation, industrial relations, employers' and workers' organizations and the elimination of discrimination, among others, will contribute to the promotion of democracy.

114. ILO is looking forward to collaborating on these issues with the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, particularly ALO, in accordance with the aforementioned new policy.

115. Scarcity of resources imposes certain limitations to the implementation of joint activities agreed upon with the organizations under the League of Arab States. Since available resources from the regular budgets of ILO and its counterparts are limited for such programmes, the scope and coverage of the cooperation remains restricted. Consideration should, therefore, be given to securing adequate levels of financing from such sources as the Arab funding institutions and countries in the region, in addition to the traditional donors such as UNDP, etc., which have the capability to contribute to the joint activities of ILO and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, mainly ALO.

116. As a practical step for strengthening the cooperation, consideration should be given to expanding or enhancing the annual meetings between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States. This could be done by narrowing down the subject matters to be discussed at the meeting, with particular emphasis on the formulation of specific joint activities and the necessary arrangements for their implementation. For this purpose, consultations among technical staff from the concerned parties need to be strengthened in preparation for, and for follow-up to, the aforementioned annual meeting. The existing mechanism of cooperation between the ILO and ALO could be considered as a model in the formulation of an appropriate cooperation mechanism between LAS

and its specialized organizations on the one hand, and the United Nations system, on the other.

117. Other important measures to be strengthened include the flow and exchange of information on both technical and policy issues in order to establish specific common objectives and identify ways and means for their attainment.

118. It is to be noted that in line with the agreement on cooperation, ILO and ALO are currently implementing a comprehensive programme for joint activities covering the period 1992-1993, and a similar programme is being formulated for the biennium 1994-1995. Such programmes comprise seminars, studies and publications on technical issues of common interest, in particular, employment, vocational training, employers' and workers' activities, women workers, and international and Arab labour standards. The multidisciplinary advisory team for Arab States will be the appropriate vehicle to ensure proper implementation of the above proposal.

119. In order to strengthen the links between the ILO and LAS and its specialized organizations with the countries of the region, efforts should be made to ensure and broaden their full utilization of, and participation in, various ILO programmes and projects at country and regional level.

ESCWA-ALO

120. The meeting emphasized the confirmation and reinforcement of cooperation and coordination between ESCWA and ALO in the framework of the memorandum of understanding signed on 9 April 1986.

121. The meeting emphasized the reinforcement of the cooperation between the two organizations during the next decade in the following fields:

(a) Migration and displacement of manpower and the reintegration of returnees;

(b) Study of population impact on planning;

(c) Convening meetings for expert groups concerning future Arab strategy in employment (adopted by the Arab Labour Conference 1993);

(d) Participation in the study of improvements in social and economic situation of the Palestinian people;

(e) Establishment of coordinating units for monitoring and exchange of information;

(f) Establishment of joint activities in the area of human resources, development, vocational training and social development;

(g) Establishment of joint activities in connection with the project on regional household survey in the ESCWA region;

(h) Cooperation in the area of statistics;

(i) Convening of conferences on the needs and capability of disabled persons;

(j) Conducting of joint studies on the implication of European Unity on ESCWA region;

(k) Conducting of study on the situation and problems of manpower in the agricultural sector in the ESCWA region;

(l) Conducting of study on privatization; and

(m) Convening of joint meetings to study manpower in labour legislation and social security, vocational health and women at work.

Disaster

(a) Disaster/emergency management

122. The meeting was especially concerned over the increasing number of complex emergency situations and their impact on the development process in general, and on the vulnerable groups of the affected civilian populations, in particular.

123. Bearing in mind the importance of addressing the root causes of such situations, the meeting agreed that disaster/emergency management should encompass all aspects of pre- and post-disaster/emergency management activities, from anticipating hazard impacts through responding to disasters/emergencies, to initiating the process of rehabilitation and reconstruction.

124. The above implies the integration of all disaster-related activities in an overall coordinated approach from the local to the national/regional, and international levels. This approach ensures the efficient use of resources (human financial and material) within the framework of policies appropriate to the particular disaster/emergency profile of the area concerned and within the national development goals.

125. The main objectives of disaster/emergency management are:

(a) To reduce the potential losses and other adverse effects of known hazards, natural and man-made;

(b) To ensure prompt and appropriate assistance to disaster victims, when necessary;

(c) To achieve rapid and durable recovery following any disaster/emergency situation.

(b) Proposals for strengthening and expanding cooperation between the United Nations system and LAS in the area of disaster/emergency management

126. The meeting agreed that more emphasis should be placed on the role of both the United Nations and LAS regarding awareness-raising among Arab States on the issue of disaster/emergency and its linkage to development. This can be done

through the various forums, i.e. LAS meetings, United Nations country programmes and through contribution to national development plans.

127. The meeting also agreed to promote national and regional preparedness by strengthening and/or establishing national and regional capacities in that field, and by following up on national workshops on disaster management training programmes.

128. On the basis of the lessons learned form the past, it was suggested that LAS nominate a focal point with a multisectoral coordinating function to liaise between the various sectors concerned with disaster/emergency management problems.

129. It was suggested that the possibility of developing an inter-agency approach to improve the cooperation with LAS in the above-mentioned area be explored. It was agreed that the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and Habitat would follow up with UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, WFP, FAO and UNIDO on that issue.

130. The meeting suggested exploring the possibility of associating the Arab Administrative Development Organisation with the area of Disaster/Emergency Management training. It was agreed that UNDP, Department of Humanitarian Affairs and ECA would follow up on the matter.

Refugees

(a) Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

131. Within the context of increased global awareness of the social, economic and environmental impact of population movements, several areas of cooperation have been identified, and it is expected that further contacts will enable UNHCR and LAS to elaborate concrete collaborative activities and mechanisms for future cooperation, notably in the field of international protection of refugees, asylum seekers and persons in need of international protection.

132. The most important issues under consideration by the two organizations are the following:

(a) Conclusion of the Cooperation Agreement between UNHCR and LAS;

(b) Finalization of the Arab convention on refugees;

(c) Organization of a regional seminar for non-governmental organizations on refugees and asylum seekers;

(d) Follow-up on previous discussions with ALECSO to identify areas of cooperation in the field of educational assistance to refugees;

(e) Strengthening of UNHCR cooperation with other specialized institutions of the Arab League in fields of common interest.

133. In the field of promotion and dissemination of refugee law, UNHCR and the League of Arab States are exploring new opportunities to exchange legal expertise and to jointly carry out studies and to organize conferences and

seminars on protection problems on the legal situation of refugees, persons seeking asylum and displaced persons in the Arab world.

(b) United National Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees

134. UNRWA relations with the League of Arab States is different from that of other United Nations organizations. The basic difference is that UNRWA is dealing solely with Palestine refugees and that Palestine is a member of LAS. UNRWA provides quasi-governmental services which include education, health and relief and social services to about 2.7 million Palestinian refugees within its five areas of operation, namely Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Occupied Territory of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

135. During 1992, cooperation and contacts were maintained at all levels between the LAS secretariat and UNRWA representatives. Meetings also took place between the Secretary-General of LAS and the Commissioner-General of UNRWA. Meetings on child welfare and development in the Arab countries and those relating to the Arab League's Education Council were attended by UNRWA representatives, with the purpose of enhancing cooperation and exchange of information. UNRWA and LAS regard their cooperation as very positive.

136. The Arab League has a special interest in UNRWA programmes and activities which are provided mainly to the Palestinians. UNRWA activities in the Occupied Territory are viewed with special interest owing to the difficulties faced by the Palestinian population there.

(c) LAS and UNRWA

137. To enhance cooperation between LAS and UNRWA, the following have been recommended:

(i) continuation of contacts at all levels between LAS secretariat and UNRWA;

(ii) further strengthening, at the field level, of contacts, exchange of information and cooperation among the Agency's education and health staff, host governments, concerned ministries and departments;

(iii) follow-up on the idea of deploying efforts jointly with donor and prospective donor countries to obtain additional financial support for UNRWA programmes of assistance in the interest of Palestinian refugees.

Special Groups

138. Among the special groups, the disabled require special attention particularly with regard to their integration into the active labour force. LAS proposes that the United Nations cooperate in studying this issue and in participating in the creation of an Arab medical industry specializing in this field. Such efforts would require the assistance of the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, UNDP, UNESCO, ALECSO, Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development and the LAS Council of Ministers of Social Affairs.

Drugs

139. While innumerable, detailed and exhaustive studies of the issue of drugs have been made and national strategies adopted, the drug problem remains ubiquitous, reaching all strata of society. Further, there is a glaring absence of a comprehensive approach to dealing with the problem. LAS therefore deems necessary a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary approach to strengthen and improve "the war on drugs" by ensuring the enrolment of all social forces and institutions in a relentless endeavour to eradicate this problem. In this regard, the meeting agreed that cooperation should be intensified among LAS (Secretariat-General of the Council of Ministers of Interior and ALECSO), UNDCP Branch for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and UNESCO along the following lines:

(a) Exchange of studies, papers and specialized publications on the subject and of information on names, methods of operation and centres of activity of traffickers;

(b) Holding of periodic meetings in Arab countries outside the framework of the regular meetings of the drug abuse control committees;

(c) Training of those involved in drug abuse control in the Arab countries in the most current methods and procedures in the field;

(d) Holding of additional scientific seminars in order to alert Arab public opinion to the dangers of the drug epidemic;

(e) Providing of assistance and encouragement in connection with the introduction of alternative crops as a substitute for narcotics in certain Arab countries.